



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Secondary Schools league tables in a 28-page supplement

PLUS CHRIS WOODHEAD, EDUCATION'S CHIEF INSPECTOR, ON WHAT MAKES A GOOD SCHOOL

THE BEST WRITING IS IN 'THE INDEPENDENT' EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, BILL BRYSON, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DONALD MACINTYRE, ANNE MCILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, AILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD

Pull back on Lords, peer tells Hague

A SENIOR Tory peer warned the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, yesterday to pull back from his "gladiatorial battle" with the Government over reform of the House of Lords.

Lord Alexander of Weeden, a constitutional expert and the chairman of NatWest bank, criticised Tory plans to use the party's big majority in the Lords to disrupt government Bills, including plans to strip the 750 hereditary peers of their right to sit and vote.

A Conservative Central Office briefing note, leaked to *The Independent* last week, revealed that the Tories were planning a "zero tolerance" policy towards "bad legislation".

But Lord Alexander said: "I thought zero tolerance was a phrase used in dealing with crime. I would be very disappointed if anything like that crept in, in the Lords fulfilling what is a very important role of evaluating where legislation could be improved."

He told GMTV's Sunday Programme that Labour's strongest argument for Lords reform was the in-built Tory majority under the present system. "That argument means there must be change," he said.

Lord Alexander warned that the Tories could "play into Labour's hands" if their peers continued to block the Bill to bring in proportional representation for next June's elections to the European Parliament.

Although he would prefer a "big bang" Lords reform which went wider than the hereditaries, he warned Mr Hague: "I think the chances of that will diminish every time that the gladiatorial contest between

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

the Government and the House of Lords surfaces."

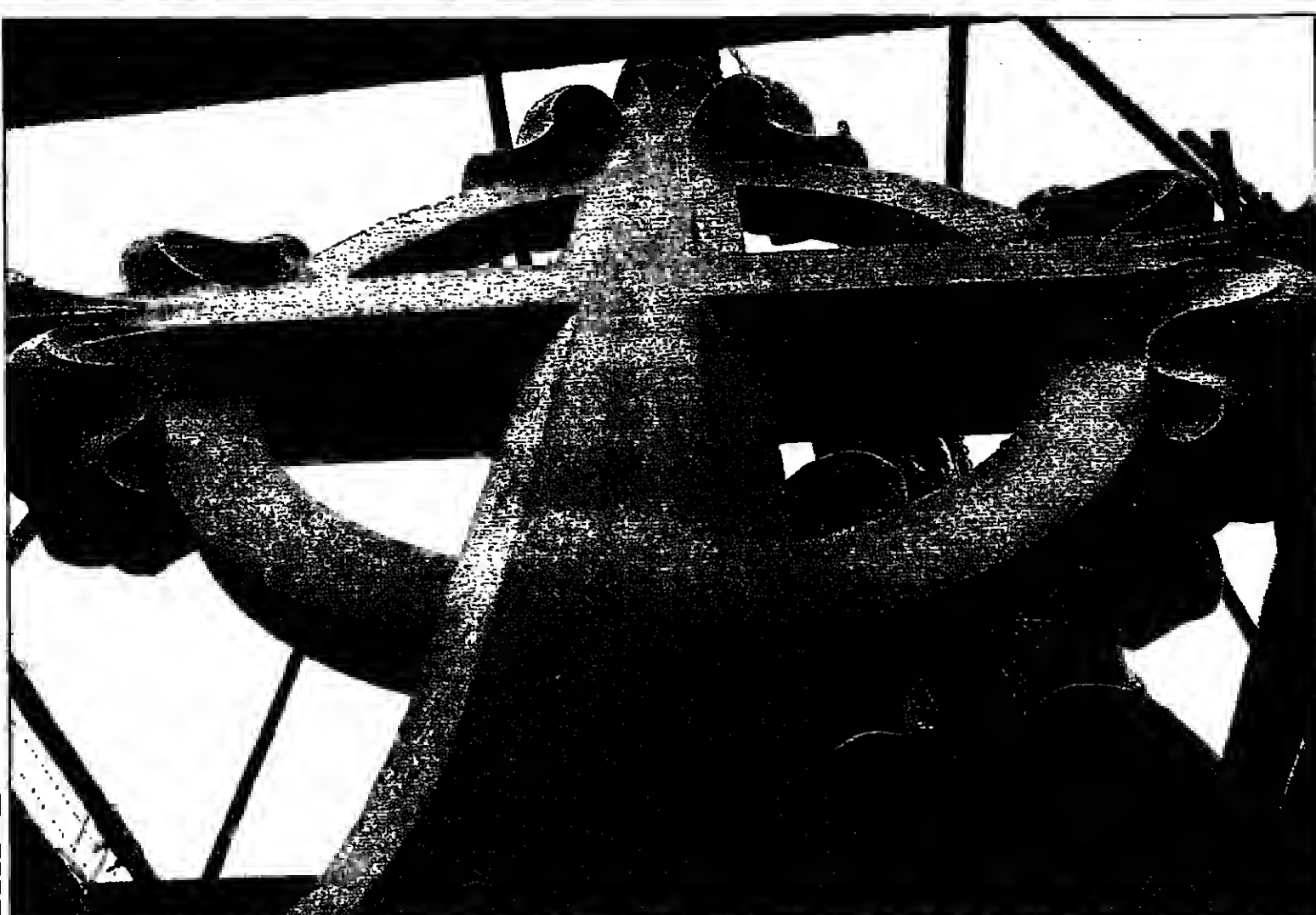
The European Elections Bill will be rushed through the Commons this week and Lord Alexander said that peers, who voted against it five times during the last parliamentary session, should not spend much more time on what he called "a relatively minor issue".

However, Mr Hague defended his headline tactics over Lords reform. Interviewed on the same programme, he denied his "zero tolerance" strategy could backfire on the Tories. He insisted that Tony Blair had misjudged the public mood. "I think most people in the country think it's wrong to change the House of Lords without knowing what you're going to change it into," he said.

"It fuels the suspicion that what the Prime Minister is really after is to have a House of Crones... We just won't have an effective second chamber that is able to challenge the government of the day. Sadly, that is probably what he wants."

Buckingham Palace confirmed a report in yesterday's *Independent* on Sunday that the Queen has agreed that members of the Royal Family will lose their historic right to sit and vote in Parliament under the Lords reforms. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent will all lose their seats.

"Formal advice has been received from the Government on reforms and in line with established constitutional practice, the Queen has accepted that advice," a palace spokesman said.



Stonemason Paul Bloomfield putting finishing touches to the new wheel cross, designed by Jason Battle, which will replace an 18th-century one on the west front gable of Salisbury cathedral in Wiltshire. There will be a topping-out ceremony for the cross on Wednesday. Les Wilson

Polish lawyer faces extradition

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE OXFORD university professor whose wife may face extradition to Poland for alleged crimes during the Stalinist era lashed out yesterday at what he described as "misrepresentation of the case" and a "smear campaign".

Włodzisław Brus, emeritus professor of Russian and East European studies and a fellow of Wolfson College, said that his wife, 79-year-old Halina Wolinska, "won't speak any more - she'll speak to the proper authorities. She has not been told anything officially. She's waiting till the proper authorities will confront her with a request - she won't respond to a smear campaign."

A Polish court will take the decision this week on whether to issue a warrant for the arrest of Mrs Wolinska, a lawyer in Poland during the Stalinist 1950s. If the court issues the arrest warrant, that will be followed by an extradition request to the UK.

Mrs Wolinska has described the charges against her as "a shameful pack of absurd lies". She is accused of fabricating evidence against Emil Fiedor, a former leader of Poland's non-Communist resistance to the Nazi occupation. Poland's "Armia Krajowa", or national resistance army, was

loathed by the Communist regime because it had kept Moscow at arm's length throughout the Second World War. Fiedor was hanged in 1953, after a brief show trial.

Mrs Wolinska has said: "It wasn't my case - I was in the army part of the jurisdiction and Fiedor was tried in the civil court." She is accused of signing Fiedor's arrest warrant, though she herself says: "I was not there. I did not see the papers." Her husband said yesterday: "Her only involvement in this case was consent. She never had anything to do with the trial."

If the extradition request does go ahead, it could lead to many similar requests. What- ever the rights or wrongs of Mrs Wolinska's particular case, the question of General Pinochet's extradition seems almost simple, by comparison. The potential extradition of the Chilean dictator could be followed by a long list of other alleged wrongdoers from different countries.

Every town and city in Communist eastern Europe was littered with people who played an active part in executing the sometimes lethal policies of the repressive regime. Many of those people with dubious CVs now live in Britain and other Western countries.

A Home Office spokesman

emphasised yesterday that approval of the extradition request would not be automatic. "A purely political act wouldn't necessarily qualify."

In Poland, many of the regime's worst crimes have been allowed to rest. Police who murdered a pro-Solidarity priest, Jerzy Popieluszko, were prosecuted. But the bloodshed in 1956 and in 1970 has never been legally pursued. In 1981, pro-Solidarity strikers in a Silesian mine were killed; an inquiry is theoretically under way, though little has emerged. General Jaruzelski, who ordered the tanks on the streets in 1981, now lives in almost dignified retirement.

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A Home Office spokesman

Police fear for missing baby

BY CARAL MILMO

POLICE SEARCH teams were last night scouring south London as fears grew for the safety of a five-month-old baby girl missing for more than 30 hours.

Scotland Yard said it was "very concerned" about the child, who was reported missing at 11am on Saturday after her distraught mother turned up at Guy's Hospital in London Bridge. A helicopter and sniffer dog search on Saturday failed to find the baby, who was last seen by staff at the hospital on Friday morning after receiving treatment for a skin complaint.

It is understood the mother went shopping with the baby and her six-year-old son in nearby Tower Bridge Road some time on Friday. The baby has not been seen since.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are very, very concerned for the safety of this child, whose last confirmed sighting was very early on Friday when her mother was seen leaving the hospital."

A call was received from the hospital reporting the baby missing on Saturday morning and a full air and land search was carried out. That search continues. Obviously as time goes on we become increasingly concerned and we would appeal to anyone who might have seen the baby and her mother on Tower Bridge Road to contact us urgently."

The mother left Guy's wearing a long blue raincoat at around 5am on Friday and is believed by officers to have been seen on nearby Tower Bridge Road later that day.

A 35-year-old woman was last night being held in custody at a south London police station after being arrested in connection with the disappearance.

Anyone with information about the baby, who was last seen wearing a pink hooded jacket and blue romper suit, should contact Detective Inspector Graham Worthington at Deptford CID on 0181-853 1212.

Oxfam Hurricane Appeal

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Daniel Alegria, Oxfam, Tegucigalpa, November 1998

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Oxfam is there. Water equipment, sent within days of the disaster, is already saving thousands of lives - providing clean, safe water and preventing further deaths from cholera and diarrhoea.

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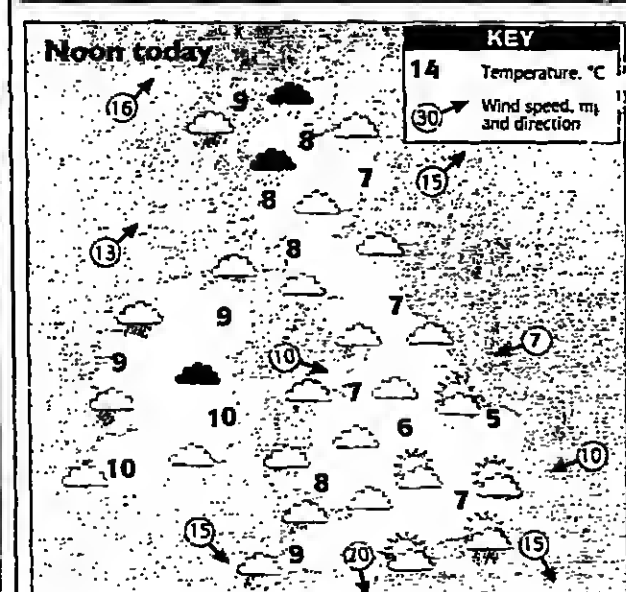
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BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: South-west England and west Wales will be cloudy with light rain. The rest of Wales and most of England will, however, see some sunnier, although it will stay chilly after a frosty start. Towards the east coast the odd light shower will threaten later, possibly wetter over the hills. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be cloudy but milder with showers and hill fog. Eastern Scotland will be brighter for a while, but colder with spots of rain on the way.

SE & E England, London, E Anglia: Chilly after a frosty, misty or foggy start but quite sunny for a while with just the chance of a light shower to the east. A light northerly wind increasing moderate north-easterly. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

Cent S England, Midlands, Channel Isles: Early fog and frost patches lifting, leaving it dry with some sunnier. Light north to north-easterly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Cent N & NE England: A chilly day after a frosty start. Mist lifting to leave it bright for a while but cloud will merge, with light rain to the north. Light variable winds. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

N Ireland: Mild but dull with drizzle. Dry in some areas but staying cloudy. Light winds increasing moderate south-westerly. Max temp 7-11C (45-52F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W & N Wales: Overcast with rain and hill fog. Moderate south to south-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Cloudy with sporadic light rain. A light variable wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

OUTLOOK

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with some rain at times but it will be fairly mild. It will be colder elsewhere with night frosts and an increasing risk of wintry showers across East Anglia and the South-east.

TRAVEL

London: A41 Finchley Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Portico Green. Major works at Finchley Rd. Gyratory. Until 31st December. Cambridge Road. A1 between Acorny and Hadden. Construction lane closures and contraflow. Until 31st December. Budegum Lane. A40 between junctions 12 (A62) & 13 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 18th January 1999.

Bristol: M5, J18-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001.

Wolverhampton: A47 Worcester Road. Kings Lynn (A10) Roadworks between the pylon

LIGHTING UP

Setback	4.04pm	to	6.22am
Birmingham	3.58pm	to	7.55am
Cardiff	4.06pm	to	7.53am
Edinburgh	3.50pm	to	8.22am
London	3.56pm	to	7.46am
Manchester	3.55pm	to	8.02am
Newcastle	3.46pm	to	8.07am

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	3.31	11.4	4.05	12.2
Cardiff	1.59	4.1	2.31	4.3
Cardigan	2.03	4.9	2.30	5.1
Dover	7.37	6.1	8.09	6.2
Dun Laoghaire	8.33	3.8	8.41	4.0
Falmouth	1.38	4.7	2.01	4.9
Glasgow	9.13	3.3	9.45	3.4
Greenwich	8.03	3.6	8.55	3.8
Harwich	1.43	6.1	2.01	6.9
Hayle	7.12	5.1	7.26	5.6
Hull (Albert Dock)	2.32	7.8	3.26	8.0
Kings Lynn	1.31	5.2	1.45	5.3
Liverpool	7.54	6.5	8.17	9.0
Milford Haven	2.44	5.0	3.12	6.4
Newcastle	1.43	6.1	2.01	6.9
Portsmouth	3.14	1.8	3.31	1.9
Plymouth	6.16	4.5	8.35	4.4
Portsmouth	4.51	4.1	5.18	4.5
Scarborough	12.23	5.2	1.12	5.4
Wick	8.12	3.2	8.18	3.4

Height measured in metres.

AIR QUALITY

Location	NO _x	SO ₂
London	Mod	Gd
East of London	Mod	Gd
Wales	Gd	Gd
Central England	Mod	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	Gd

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 07:42	Sun sets: 15:56
Moon rises: 14:36	Moon sets: 02:56
Full Moon: December 3	

WEATHERLINE

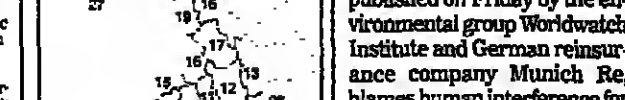
For the latest forecasts call 0800 1 9999 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min inc VAT.

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

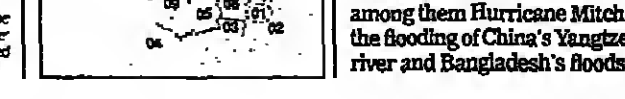
VIOLENT WEATHER has cost the world a record £5.4bn this year, more than 50 per cent higher than the disaster toll of the entire Eighties. A report published on Friday by the environmental group Worldwatch Institute and German reinsurance company Munich Re, blames human interference for the most severe disasters, among them Hurricane Mitch, the flooding of China's Yangtze river and Bangladesh's floods.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



High F will extend eastwards as Low B moves north-east and gradually fills.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Cloudy, drizzle, fair, fog, haze, no rain, sun, rain, snow, showers, sleet, storms.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abidjan	17/23	17/23	17/23
Algiers	16/24	16/24	16/24
Amman	18/24	18/24	18/24
Ankara	10/16	10/16	10/16
Antananarivo	12/20	12/20	12/20
Athens	11/20	11/20	11/20
Bahia	12/20	12/20	12/20
Bangkok	12/20	12/20	12/20
Batavia	12/20	12/20	12/20
Bombay	12/20	12/20	12/20
Buenos Aires	12/20	12/20	12/20
Calcutta	12/20	12/20	12/20
Cairo	12/20	12/20	12/20
Cardiff	12/20	12/20	12/20
Caracas	12/20	12/20	12/20
Casablanca	12/20	12/20	12/20

مكتبة العصر

Judge appeals to find girls taken by foster parents

A HIGH Court judge has taken the unusual step of appealing to the public to help to find two young sisters who disappeared with their foster parents 10 weeks ago.

Mrs Justice Hogg spoke yesterday of her anxiety over the "sad plight" of Jade and Hannah Bennett, saying she was "very worried for the safety and well-being of these children".

She said there had been several reported sightings of the girls, three of which were in the Irish Republic, since they vanished with their foster parents, Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley. The judge spoke out after appeals from the police, the children's natural mother and relatives of the Bramleys had brought no response.

The Bramleys, of Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, were known to have been distressed after their application to adopt Jade, five, and Hannah, three, was turned down and courts rejected their appeal against the decision.

The 34-year-old postal work-

BY JANE HUGHES

er and his 35-year-old wife, who had no children of their own, had been warned that they might lose the children and were due to meet social workers to discuss the girls' future when they disappeared, taking their passports and blue Honda Concerto.

Exactly why the couple were deemed unsuitable to adopt remains unclear. Cambridgeshire social services revealed only that the Bramleys were "unable to offer the special time that (the children) so much needed", despite being on the list of approved foster parents.

But the lengths to which the couple have gone to keep the girls they have cared for since March shows just how strong their attachment to the children had become. Indeed, the Bramleys had earlier told the girls' natural mother, Jacqueline Bennett, they were "so happy they had two beautiful children they could never have had".

In an emotional appeal to the

Bramleys after their disappearance, Ms Bennett, a 24-year-old cleaner, said she had put up her daughters for adoption to give them a better start in life. "I know they've done what they have done because they love Jade and Hannah," she said. "I cannot blame them, but I just want my children back."

She criticised social services for not removing her daughters immediately "if they thought the children weren't being looked after properly".

Mrs Justice Hogg said she was concerned that the girls be found as quickly as possible. "They have been missing for nearly three months and the court has no means of knowing whether their health and educational needs are being met," she said.

"Someone knows where they are, or someone has seen them. I beseech that person to come forward with whatever information he or she has, so we can find these two little girls."

Ms Bennett had asked the

local authority to look after her daughters in June last year and they were placed with short-term foster carers before she gave her consent for their adoption last January.

Neighbours on the modern housing estate where the Bramleys lived said the couple appeared devoted to the girls. But Liz Hallion, the director of Cambridgeshire social services, said social workers had made their decision "in the best interests of the children".

She said her staff had been trying to support the Bramleys for a couple of months but there had been no indication that they might abscond. She insisted that there was no question of the couple harming the girls.

The families of Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley later released a statement saying they were aware of the "distressing personal circumstances" that led the couple to leave home. "We ask them to return home so... any problems [can be] sorted out," the families said.



Jade, five, and Hannah, three, who have vanished with Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley

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Tougher guidelines on care standards

INSPECTORS ARE to be authorised to check on standards of care in state homes for young people and the elderly, and will have powers to close homes, according to tough new guidelines published by the Government today.

In a White Paper on social services, the Government is proposing to introduce regional commissions to take over the inspection of homes from local authorities. These commissions will enforce standards of care in all residential homes.

The Government's proposed measures are intended to address continued failure to detect cruelty in care homes.

The new standards come after three people were charged over allegations of neglect at an Essex care home for children and vulnerable adults.

The man and two women, who have been bailed to appear before Chelmsford magistrates in March, were among five people arrested last week as part of an inquiry at the Old Convent, Bicknacre, near Chelmsford.

To coincide with today's White Paper, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has released a report accusing child protection agencies of failing children in their care because of poor communication.

According to the NSPCC, most cases of organised child abuse are only uncovered by accident because not enough information is shared by those whose job it is to protect children.

The charity is calling for changes in the way paedophile rings are investigated. The NSPCC guide calls for the introduction of specialist intelligence gathering techniques and joint investigations. Look-

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

ing at 20 cases involving paedophile rings in London, it found that many investigations were only initiated after chance sharing of crucial long-standing information by different agencies, disclosure by an abuse victim apprehended while committing a non-sexual offence or a complaint made by one abuser against another.

Meanwhile, a high proportion of investigations over months and sometimes years failed to lead to the conviction of abusers. Very few were triggered by a straightforward report from a victim or witness. And it was not uncommon for related information to be stored in different files.

Cases with multiple victims showed that peer group pressure - fuelled by fear of retribution - deterred children from exposing their abusers. If family members were involved, victims expressed guilt at having their relatives imprisoned and arrested. Paedophiles helped each other by intimidating witnesses or destroying corroborative evidence.

Organised abusers also targeted ethnic minority families with a poor grasp of English to reduce the chance of discovery.

The NSPCC recommends that there should be systematic sharing of information on all reported child sexual abuse cases and investigations should be run jointly by the police, social services and the charity.

Jim Harding, director of the NSPCC, said: "We all need guidance on this pressing issue. We have to provide a more organised response to organised abuse."

IN BRIEF

Scots to attack mink colonies

A CONSORTIUM of Scottish landowners and sporting estates is trying to eradicate wild mink from the Western Isles. Mink Eradication Scheme - Hebrides (Mesh) aims to clear the predators from the rich nesting grounds of waders, sea birds and ducks in the Outer Hebrides. Mesh is to monitor mink numbers before starting operations to control them before the birds breed next year.

Pub gas leak kills women guests

TWO WOMEN in their twenties died yesterday and six other people were taken to hospital after being poisoned by carbon monoxide while staying at a country pub. A gas heating boiler started leaking at The Crown Inn in Wentnor, on the slopes of the Long Mynd in Shropshire, emergency services said.

Brother dies in duplicate plunge

A YOUNG man fell to his death from a motorway bridge yesterday - just weeks after his brother died in a similar accident. A Strathclyde Police spokesman said Andrew McKay, 21, appeared to have fallen on to the road after sitting on a handrail. His brother David, 17, died after an accident at the same Glasgow site on 3 October.

One lottery ticket wins £14m

ONE ticket-holder won more than £14m in Saturday's National Lottery rollover jackpot draw. The winning numbers were 4, 25, 26, 30, 37 and 45; bonus number 46.

مكتبة العصر





Aslan (Patrice Naiambana) from the Royal Shakespeare Company's play 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' greeting a guest at Hamleys in London yesterday at celebrations of the centenary of C.S. Lewis's birth. John Voos

Off-peak rail fares set for huge rise

By PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

PRIVATISED TRAIN companies face another dressing down by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, after it emerged they plan to raise fares by as much as 10 times the rate of inflation in the new year.

The firms are taking advantage of government rules that block raising commuter fares, but allow unlimited increases on certain off-peak and first-class tickets.

Train companies across the country are to announce inflation-busting rises on tickets used by business people and on off-peak fares aimed at leisure and holiday travellers.

The increases could deter people from using trains, frustrating the Government's stated aim of getting people out of cars and on to public transport. However, the industry defend-

ed the move, saying fares had fallen overall since privatisation and that the increases affected a tiny fraction of the number of tickets on offer.

The news of the increases comes just days after the railway industry was summoned for a meeting with Mr Prescott and the Transport Minister John Reid over their poor performance levels and told they would lose their franchises if they did not improve.

Midland Mainline is raising its open first-class return fare

from Kettering to Sheffield by 26 per cent, although it is introducing a new first-class ticket, at a 30 per cent discount, which the company said made the existing fare redundant.

On the politically sensitive West Coast Main Line between London and Glasgow, where passenger complaints run at one for every 100 passenger journeys, there will be rises of up to 19 per cent.

First North Western, which the franchising director reprimanded for cancelling too many trains, has recently raised the single fare on a new service from Manchester to London by 150 per cent, although the company said the fare was always intended as an opening offer.

The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising said train companies could put up prices of only non-regulated tickets - first class, cheap day returns, supersavers and Apex. A spokeswoman said: "On these fares they have a choice to make. Either they can put up fares or they can get more passengers by keeping them down. We know what we would like, but it is a judgement for them."

Commuters are protected from above-inflation fare rises. Increases on 60 per cent of fares - season tickets, savers and standard returns - are pegged at 2.5 per cent.

Commuters into London will see further cuts as fares are linked to performance. Most of

the 10 operators into the capital have been punished and allowed rises of only about 1.9 per cent. Only one service of Silverlink, which runs trains between the northern Home Counties and London Euston, can lift peak fares above the rate of inflation.

The Association of Train Operating Companies said the examples were a tiny proportion of the 40 million fares available on the network. The association's spokesman, David Campbell-Bannerman, said: "The vast majority of fares will rise by less than inflation. Average rail fares have already fallen by more than 1 per cent below inflation over the past two years and, as government figures show, that contrasts with a 15 per cent rise above inflation in the previous decade."

He said the increases applied to journeys where trains had to compete with motorways and airlines. "The unregulated fares are unregulated because Parliament did not feel there was a good reason to regulate them because of the strength of competition," he said.

Critics of privatisation say the fare rises were inevitable. The state subsidy to train companies will fall from £1.4bn last year to £400m in 2003, while the economic downturn is also expected to hit revenue. The companies say lack of network capacity prevents them increasing demand, so they have to raise unregulated fares.

TICKET PRICE INCREASES

Company	Route	Ticket Type	Increase
First North Western	Manchester-London	Single	150%
Midland Mainline	Kettering-Sheffield	First Open	26%
Virgin	London-Birmingham	First Open	19%
Connex	London-Horsham	Open Return	6.4%
Virgin	London-Manchester	Open Return	10%

Only one industry provides for the health of our people and the wealth of our nation.



You can't put a price on the country's health. Or, can you?

For better health brings greater wealth by returning people to work and reducing the burden on social services.

As well as sustaining and improving our health, one industry is contributing significantly to the wealth of our nation - the pharmaceutical industry.

Pharmaceutical companies in Britain have discovered many of the world's best medicines and are pioneering new treatments to help patients in need.

Thanks to advances in medicines, millions of NHS patients can now look forward to a happier and healthier life.

Leading the way in the fight against disease, the pharmaceutical industry in Britain spends more than £6 million every day in the search for new medicines and vaccines.

Investment in medicines often brings savings in other more costly areas of healthcare and can reduce the length of hospital stays.

The pharmaceutical industry is also healthy for the British economy.

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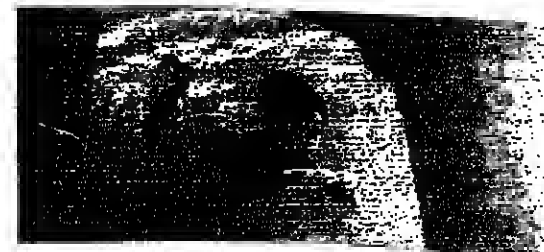
Article 19

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JP 11/15/98

Six line up for lesser-spotted Booker prize



An oystercatcher in a field of buttercups from 'Natural Heartlands', a contender for the BP Natural World Book Prize. David Woodfull

THINK OF it as the Green Booker. There won't be quite the hysterical razzmatazz, but there will still be a lot of prestige attached to the winner of Britain's premier environmental book prize, to be announced tomorrow. Six very different volumes are competing for the boost to Christmas sales which comes from winning the BP Natural World Book Prize.

They range from a pocket insect guide to a glossy television series spin-off, from an unusual appeal to go easy on pests to an intimate tour of Britain's wild places, and from a long documentary on coral reefs to the drama of a pair of hawks nesting in the middle of a big city.

The £5,000 prize, which is in its third year, is an amalgamation of two long-standing com-

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

petitions, BP's Sir Peter Kent Book Prize and one run for several years by *The Natural World*, the magazine of the Wildlife Trust.

A panel of five judges has chosen a shortlist of six, featuring the work of an eclectic group of authors: a Canadian professor, two American journalists, a brace of British writer-illustrator teams and David Attenborough.

The tome of the grand old man of British wildlife is sure of a prominent place in the shops, regardless of whether he scoops the prize tomorrow. Sir David's *The Life of Birds* is the sumptuously produced spin-off of his sumptuous tele-

vision series on bird behaviour. It is expected to be extremely popular.

Rita Schreyer, commercial director of Books Etc, said the company's most successful book-signing session was for Sir David's other spin-off, *Life on Earth*. "He was there all afternoon and signed nearly a thousand copies," she said.

But not only much-hyped TV-related books about the environment can be massive sellers. Two years ago Richard Mabey's *Flora Britannica*, a magisterial account of Britain's wild flowers and their folklore, which feels like a concrete slab and costs £30, sold about 80,000 copies. It was shortlisted for the first BP Natural World prize.

Could there be another *Silent Spring* hidden in this year's list, another *Ring of Bright Water*? The chairman of the judges, the environmental journalist Linda Bennett, said they were looking for a book that was "a significant work" and, most of all, it had to be accessible.

"We want people to understand more about conservation, so we want them to have lively text, and to read about conservation like they might read exciting, sexy novels," she said.

Exciting and sexy might not be the first adjectives one would apply to *Nature Wars*, Mark Winston's study of pest-control regimes and his conclusion that we should go easier on pests.

But it is a compelling argument and certainly lively, as are Marie Winn's account of hawks nesting in the heart of New York, *Red-Tails in Love*, and Osha Gray Davidson's documentary on coral reefs, *The Enchanted Braid*.

A new field guide to Britain's dragonflies and damselflies, by Steve Brooks and Richard Lewington, may seem to be the most lightweight contender of all for the BP Natural World Book Prize.

But the slim volume, filling a gap in the literature, is a jewel of a book and the one your correspondent would make the winner. It is informative, authoritative, imaginative, accessible and beautiful.

You don't fancy reading about dragonflies? Pick up this book and you just might change your mind.

THE MAIN CONTENDERS

The Life of Birds by David Attenborough (320pp, BBC Books, £18.99)

The book of the Old Whisperer's current television series: a detailed manual of behaviour rather than a twitcher's guide. His descriptions and vivid photographs prove an absorbing combination: a black heron fishing with its wings wrapped around it like a treader's cloak, a short-toed eagle disgorging a snake it has carried back to its chick. Sir David Attenborough, 72, is the doyen of British wildlife film-makers. He has been grabbing the attention of viewers since his *Zoo Quest* series in the Fifties.

The Enchanted Braid [Coming to Terms with Nature on the Coral Reef] by Osha Gray Davidson (269pp, John Wiley £19.99)

Coral reefs, US Senate hearings were told in 1990, may be the first ecosystems to be destroyed by global warming. Three weeks ago leading coral scientists said unprecedented sea temperatures this year killed vast areas of coral in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, a warning passionately argued in this book.

Osha Gray Davidson is an American reporter who writes for *The New York Times*, *New Republic* and other journals.

Natural Heartlands by Kenneth Taylor and David Woodfull (146pp, Swan Hill Press, £24.95)

A full-colour examination of how people affect the ecosystems or natural habitats peculiar to the British Isles. A book that might fit the coffee-table category, so striking are its photographs (by Woodfull). If the essays (by Taylor) were not so engaging.

Kenneth Taylor is a naturalist, writer and broadcaster. David Woodfull is an environmental, landscape and wildlife photographer.

Nature Wars [People v Pests] by Mark L. Winston (210pp, Harvard University Press, £15.50)

Pests are not creatures for which we may feel much sympathy. But all those cockroaches, weevils and munching moths are members of the natural world. If we declare war on them we can do untold damage. Thirty-five years after *Silent Spring* alerted the world to the dangers of DDT we are still awash with pesticides.

Mark Winston, Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and author of *The Biology of the Honey Bee* and *Killer Bees*, outlines a new management, not eradication, approach to pests.

Red-Tails in Love [A Wildlife Drama in Central Park] by Marie Winn (309pp, Bloomsbury, £13.99)

Anyone who has watched kestrels nesting on blocks of flats knows the thrill of birds of prey in the city. It happened to New Yorkers in the spring of 1992 when a pair of red-tailed hawks built a nest on a Fifth Avenue ledge. Birdwatchers in Central Park, where the hawks hunted, became obsessed and the story is about them as much as the birds. Marie Winn writes a column on the natural world for *The Wall Street Journal* and has written books on the effect of television on children. She lives in New York City and spends time each day in Central Park.

Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland by Steve Brooks and Richard Lewington (160pp, British Wildlife Publishing, £18.95)

The slimmest book on the shortlist, but perhaps the most enchanting. A beautiful, technical guide to Britain's 38 resident and 9 migrant species of dragonfly and damselfly, with descriptions, notes and maps. Steve Brooks became curator of the dragonfly collection at the Natural History Museum. He lives in Hertfordshire.

Richard Lewington illustrated *The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland*. He lives and works in Oxfordshire.

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Union condemns elite teacher plan

THE BIGGEST teaching union yesterday condemned as "an insult" government plans to offer a fast-track to training and promotion for an elite group of 1,000 graduates a year.

Plans to offer accelerated promotion to top graduates will be contained in a Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession to be published on Thursday. The paper is expected to include proposals for rewarding high-performing and

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

improving schools, as well as introducing a system of performance-related pay aimed at individual teachers.

The National Union of Teachers attacked the proposal, which are designed to help to fill the increasing number of teacher vacancies.

The union has threatened to strike against attempts to link

pay with exam results. Other unions, however, have broadly accepted the principle of linking pay with performance and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, declared the current system of classroom pay "daft" and told union leaders opposed to performance-related pay to "get real".

At present there is a £23,000 ceiling on the pay of classroom teachers, with extra pay awarded for extra responsibilities.

Under the fast-track scheme, 1,000 graduates or newly qualified teachers will be offered a salary of £23,000 after four or five years, rather than the seven years staff currently have to wait. They will be expected to rise rapidly to fill management jobs or become advanced skills "super teachers" with salaries of up to £40,000 a year.

The fast-track recruits will undergo a business-style training programme, including time

in several schools and possibly a stint in industry. Special status will be offered to graduates with a good academic record and an ability to enthuse and communicate with children.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, attacked the proposal. He said: "Every teacher needs proper professional development and to assume that only 1,000 are worth special treatment is an insult to the profession."

But Mr Blunkett said it was vital to provide incentives to attract more good graduates into teaching. He said: "We are going to transform the Three Rs that we have been concentrating on into a new Three Rs, which is Recruitment, Retention and Rewarding good teaching."

Mr Blunkett hinted yesterday that possible measures for performance-related pay could include benchmarks of pupils'

performance and measures of the "value added" by teachers. The government is thought to be considering giving extra money to good and improving schools as well as introducing an element of performance-related pay for all teachers.

But Mr McAvoy said: "We have always made it clear that any attempt to link performance-related pay with pupil achievement is a non-runner and it is totally unacceptable."

Mr Blunkett said he wanted "a break in the traditional ways which are stopping two-thirds of teachers at point nine on the pay scale, which is £23,000, and saying 'This is daft and you should be able to progress because you are good at the job, not because you take on management responsibility'."

"I know of no other walk of life where two-thirds of people have a barrier on being able to progress past £23,000 a year."



'Poseldon Enthroned' by Heinrich Freidrich Füger, 'Magic Johnson' by Herb Ritts and 'Elton John' by Todd Murphy are up for auction

John Reid, guru to Elton John, sells art collection to 'simplify his life'

JOHN REID, the rock impresario who has parted company with his long-time client Sir Elton John, is to sell works of art estimated at £2m from his homes in London, New York and St Tropez.

The eclectic array of 19th-century art, Old Masters, exotic furniture and sheer kitsch, to be auctioned at Christie's next month, provides a vivid insight into the flamboyant tastes of Reid and the extravagances of the rock'n'roll world - a flamboyance more than equalling that of Reid's client, Sir Elton.

Reid, who is devoting more time to theatrical and film production, said: "I want to shrink the contents of three houses into one as I cruise into my

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

fifties and focus my attention on simpler things. I want to de-clutter my life, make it less fussy and less formal. It is with very real sadness that I say goodbye to a number of pieces in my collection that, over the years, I have grown extremely fond of. It is time to pass ownership to other collectors who, I hope, will enjoy them as much as I have."

Reid's eagerness to unclutter his life is shown by the fact that he is selling a number of the works of art at a time when the market values them worth considerably less than the amount he paid for them.

An abstract painting, *Mino-*

tour, by the Ukrainian artist Nikolai Filatov, was bought by Reid 10 years ago for £12,100. It is now valued at £2,000 to £3,000. A Louis XVI tulip-wood and ebony desk was bought four years ago for £45,000. It is now valued at £25,000 to £35,000. A 17th-century neo-classical painting *The Quarrel of Achilles and Agamemnon* by Francesco Allegri was also bought four years ago for £25,300. It is now valued at £12,000 to £18,000.

Many pieces were acquired from the collections of Rudolf Nureyev and Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Reid, as was Elton John's manager from the Seventies. There was a highly successful, but often stormy, relationship,

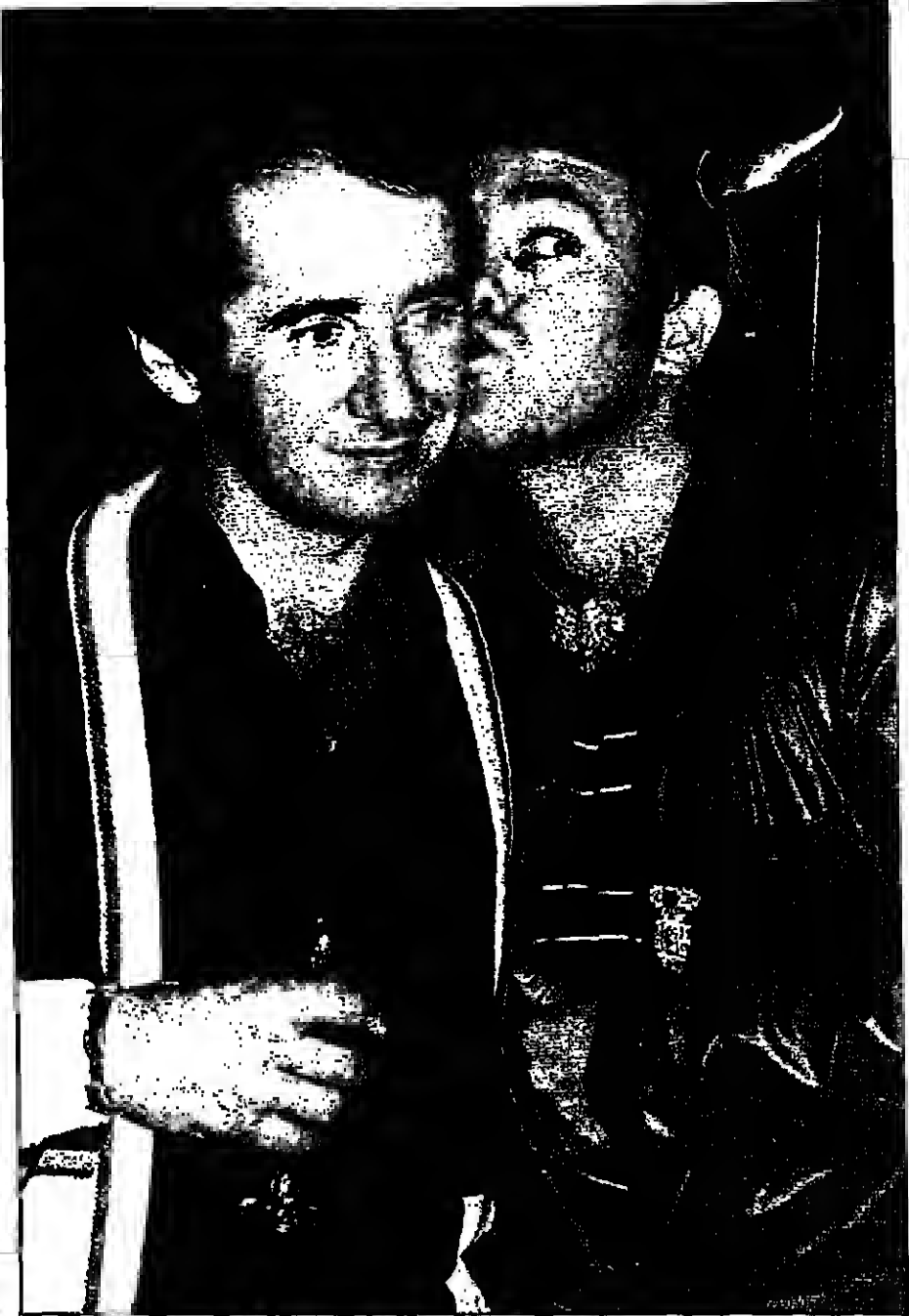
which sometimes erupted in physical fights. It ended earlier this year, and last month Reid was involved in a High Court case with another high-profile client, the dancer Michael Flatley over their management agreement. Reid won "a substantial sum" after suing Flatley for breach of contract. A counter claim by Flatley against Reid was also settled.

Reid, who is said to be worth more than £20m, came from a working-class background in Paisley near Glasgow, and started in the music business as the UK manager for the American rock band Tania Motown. His business acumen led him in the Sixties to pick Smokey Robinson's *Tears*

Of A Clown for a single release. Later, he acted as manager or consultant to Queen, Simple Minds, George Michael, Billy Connolly and Barry Humphries.

They could all have been regularly entertained at any of Reid's three homes. There they could see a Steinway piano from the Los Angeles home of Elton John (estimated to be worth £15,000 to £20,000) or a £25,000 18-carat gold sculpture by Elisabeth Frink called *Rolling over Horse*.

The works from John Reid's London home include a set of multi-coloured marble busts of the four continents, affectionately referred to by Reid as "the Village People", after the 1970s pop group.



John Reid getting a kiss on the cheek from Elton John

Reid

Councillor 'used poverty fund to hire prostitutes'

A SENIOR Labour councillor paid prostitutes and luxury hotel bills with taxpayers' money, channelled through a group set up to combat poverty, according to allegations that form part of a criminal investigation.

Garvin Reed, 50, has been suspended from his post as deputy leader of Rotherham council and banned from the town hall during a South Yorkshire Police fraud inquiry into the National Local Government Forum Against Poverty.

Two Rotherham council officers seconded to work for the anti-poverty organisation, established in 1993 by a consortium of UK local councils "to help provide regional and national strategy bases, to campaign and to think", Rotherham

BY JONATHAN FOSTER

The council said yesterday it had begun a "purge" of the forum's influence in Rotherham politics, including an investigation of evidence that separate "double expenses" claims had been submitted to the forum and the council for identical travel, accommodation and entertainment costs.

"We uncovered the web of influence the forum enjoyed," a senior council officer said. "We have been able to shut off the caucus."

Mr Reed was convener of the anti-poverty organisation, established in 1993 by a consortium of UK local councils "to help provide regional and national strategy bases, to campaign and to think". Rotherham

council gave £22,500 to the forum's running costs this year, and has spent a total of £400,000 in grants, services and fees since 1994. More than 150 other local authorities are understood to have paid annual subscriptions of £2,500-£3,500 in return for briefings.

Five detectives have been assigned to the inquiry. They are members of the team investigating the affairs of neighbouring Doncaster council. "The council has underwritten the forum, and paid staff salaries," the official said. "But it has operated independently. We know now that a lot of its budget has gone on expenses, and some of it has involved what is locally known as 'going to Manchester to get to Cleethorpes'." Mr Reed was in

Dublin attending the Fianna Fail annual conference with a number of Rotherham council staff, including Bob Bone, a council employee seconded to work for the forum, when police raided the group's offices.

The two men have denied forum funds were misused. Mr Reed now faces suspension by regional officials of the Labour Party.

"I understand the police inquiry is into the misappropriation of funds, but it is nonsense. I haven't a clue what it is really about... but I have nothing to hide," said Mr Reed.

Mr Bone has resigned as secretary of Hemsworth Labour Party, and from Crofton parish council, West Yorkshire. He said the allegations were "arrant nonsense".

Lara Croft becomes Britain's latest scientific role model

BRITAIN HAS a new ambassador for scientific excellence. Educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and barely out of her teens, her appointment might appear to be a blow both for youth and for political correctness.

But that would overlook her tendency to carry an Uzi sub-machine-gun, shoot people without asking their names, and wear sketchy clothes to cover her pneumatic figure. The new "ambassador", nominated today by the Science Minister Lord Sainsbury, is Lara Croft - the digital heroine of the Tomb Raider computer game.

The choice might seem an unusual move by the Government, although given its disappointment earlier this month when the actress Emma Thompson declined its invitation to be a role model for young women, perhaps it decided that imaginary people

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

are more hiddable than real ones - apart from backbench MPs, of course.

Lord Sainsbury, however, is certain she is the right person for the job of representing the multi-billion pound British science base to the rest of the world. In a speech today to the Social Market Foundation about "Science and the Knowledge Economy", he is dismissive of previous promotional efforts for British science, which have "plumbed for the safe option - Stephenson's Rocket rather than the Pion Organiser".

To reverse this, he says: "I want people to think of scientific achievements such as Thrust, the first supersonic car, rather than Stephenson or Faraday. I want Lara Croft of Tomb Raider to be an ambassador for British scientific excellence."



Tomb raider: Lara Croft is science ambassador

While Ms Croft is hardly in a position to refuse, she is often less than diplomatic. In the game she is a sort of female Indiana Jones who dispatches opponents with little negotiation and lots of gunfire. It is always possible that if she succeeds as an envoy for British science,

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, will appoint her as an ambassador to excellence among hereditary peers.

However, the 10 million or so Tomb Raider players worldwide - most of them adolescent boys - tend to associate her with a different kind of excellence. Many have speculated about whether any "scenes" in the games would reveal her nude: some have even gone so far as to create them, using graphics software.

For Ms Croft, the latest appointment follows her being given "Millennium Product" status by the Design Council, granting her a place in the Millennium Dome. Nobody was available yesterday from Core Design, which devised Ms Croft in 1996, to say whether there will be revised "ambassadors of British science" versions of Ms Croft - perhaps with Union Jack clothes - in future.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 30 November 1998

plan

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"a break in the traditional way
of teachers at about nine on the
pay scale, which is £22,000, and
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cause you are good at the job,
not because you take on more
responsibility'."
"I know of the other way of
life where two-thirds of people
have a career on being able to
progress past £22,000 a year."



John

poverty
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Britain's
model



Former mayor Norbert Lindner (right) greeting a fellow transsexual yesterday at the election in Quellendorf, Germany, in which he was voted out. The poll was called when he said he was becoming Michaela

French Blairites form new party

A TEXAN politician once said: "There ain't nothing in the middle of the road but yellow lines and dead armadillos." Much the same - allowing for differences in fauna and road-markings - could be said of French politics in the past 40 years.

This weekend an attempt - maybe historic, maybe doomed - was made to generate a strong force in the centre of French politics. The Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) - a kind of holding company of centre and right parties since 1978 - was remoulded into a new single party of the centre. This opens up the possibility of alliances between the centre and left for the first time since the Fifth Republic was founded in 1958.

In the shorter term, the new centrist party must decide whether to go it alone in the European elections next June,

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

abandoning the quarrelsome coalition of the Gaullists and centre right that has dominated French conservative and liberal politics for two decades.

The President of the UDF, François Bayrou, told delegates to the founding convention in Lille that they were opening a new chapter in French politics. "This is the end of a long march and the beginning of a new way," he said.

The new party, which will have 68 deputies in the National Assembly, is broadly pro-European, pro-market, in favour of modernised welfare systems and better directed state spending. It might be described as a French Blairist party - Mr Bayrou is a great admirer of New Labour.

A string of speakers at the

weekend called on the party to present a separate list for the Euro elections, cutting formal links with the Gaullists and other right-wing parties. A decision will be made in January.

The stable but stultified landscape of French right of centre politics has been blown apart in the past eight months.

A series of unauthorised local alliances with the far-right National Front forged by a handful of regional barons last March destroyed the old structures, leaving the national leaders in an often undignified scramble to pick up the pieces.

The neo-Gaullist RPR - itself an uneasy mix of populism and liberalism, nationalism and Europeanism - has survived more or less intact as the most important single formation on the centre right.

But parts of the old UDF coalition have spun off into

two, competing right-wing parties, some of whose members are tempted to form permanent electoral alliances with the anti-immigrant, extreme nationalist NF. The former defence minister Charles Millon, now in alliance with the NF as president of the Rhône-Alpes region, was ejected from the UDF and formed his own mildly Eurosceptic party called La Droite. Alain Madelin took his Démocratie Libérale party out of the UDF and into informal partnership with the Gaullists.

The ramp of the UDF - Mr Bayrou's centrist Force Démocratique, members of two other small parties and a few anti-Madelin former liberals - decided at the weekend to pool their resources. Even then, the two small parties - with four MPs between them - have insisted on maintaining a separate identity for the time being.

Swiss vote 'no' to drugs free-for-all

CASTING DOUBT on their staid reputation, one in four Swiss yesterday supported a proposal to legalise the consumption of heroin and other hard drugs.

Most voters in the referendum heeded the government's noisy warnings that a "yes" vote would turn their country into a haven for drug tourists and traffickers and outrage their European neighbours.

But 26 per cent of the voters - almost half a million people - agreed with a proposed constitutional amendment put up by a loose coalition of left-wing groups, that "the consumption, cultivation or possession of drugs, and their acquisition for personal use, is not punishable".

Last year, Switzerland voted in favour of the distribution of heroin by the state to hardened addicts. But the majority balked yesterday at the prospect of a drugs free-for-all.

No other European nation, not even the broad-minded Netherlands, has yet legalised

BY MARCUS TANNER

the possession or sale of any hard drugs.

The government said its current policy of helping hardcore addicts while clamping down on dealers was the best. The pro-legalisation lobby, which gathered the necessary 100,000 signatures to force a referendum, claimed legalisation would reduce trafficking and stamp out the black market.

The aim of the referendum organisers was not necessarily to win the vote yesterday, but to develop the debate and strengthen their hand in their campaign to convince the government to relax the laws on soft drugs such as cannabis.

Switzerland has an estimated 30,000 hard-drug addicts in a population of seven million.

François Reusser, the co-organiser of the committee that collected signatures for the referendum, said: "We were unable to mobilise the dope-smokers and ravers."

IN BRIEF

Italian accused of family killings

AN ITALIAN man who surfaced last week in London was arrested in Rome on charges of killing his family nine years ago. The Carretta family has been missing since 1989. Fernando Carretta, 36, is accused of killing his father, mother and younger brother. Mr Carretta was stopped in London during a routine police check.

Airline bugged by complaints

LUFTHANSA'S IN-FLIGHT caterer, LSG Lufthansa Service Hong Kong, is being sued by a Hong Kong company for allegedly providing poor meals, including one with a cockroach, a Hong Kong newspaper said. Nutritional Food Production Ltd, which supplies school lunches, said some meals contained sand, pencil lead and wood chips.

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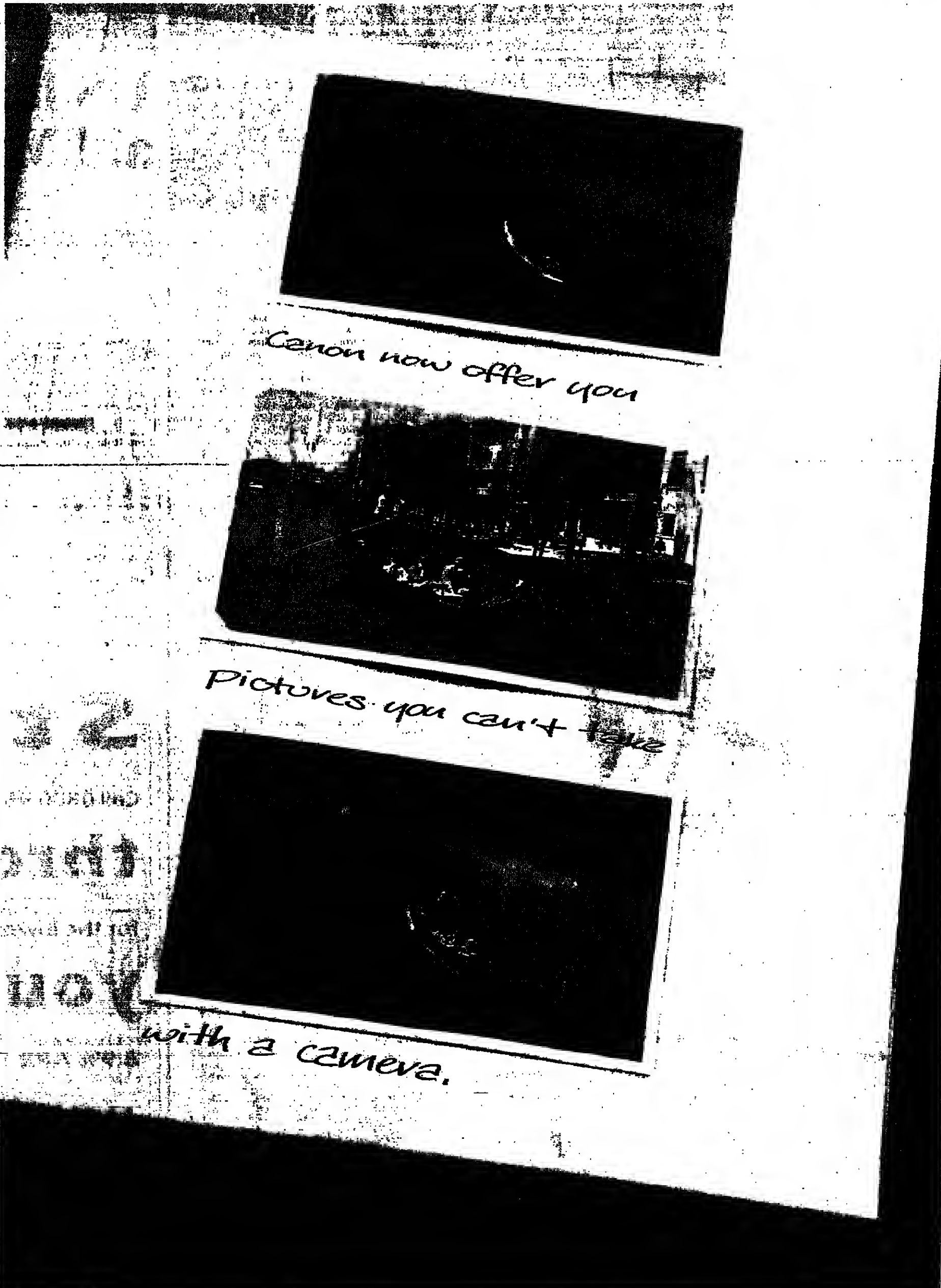
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A high-contrast, black and white photograph showing two men. The man on the left is in profile, facing right, wearing a dark suit. The man on the right is facing slightly towards the left, wearing a checkered keffiyeh and a dark jacket. The image is grainy and has a stark, high-contrast aesthetic.

Yasser Arafat shaking hands on arrival in Washington before the start of the conferences *Joel Rennich/AP*

And no search is under way to find the man whom the two convicted prisoners say implicated them in the attack on the Israeli embassy.

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July 11/15/99

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 30 November 1999



Joel Kermiche

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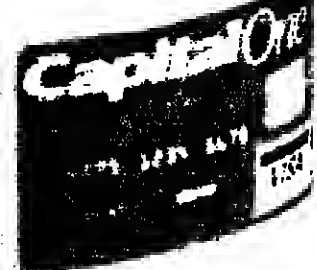
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Over 100,000 people in the UK suffer from Multiple Sclerosis. (It is, in fact, the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults.) The NHS, however, does not provide even the basic support that these people need: specialist counselling and occupational therapy, pain control, and so on. In the whole country there are only 100 specialist MS nurses. That's one for every one thousand people with MS. And only two per cent of people with MS have access to a drug proven to slow down the disease. Out of all the countries where the NHS is the best in terms of the amount of money spent on health care, the NHS is falling in its treatment of MS. The opinion of sixteen of the leading MS charities in the UK, they have endorsed a letter which will be sent to the MS Party MS Group to 10 Downing Street. It says: 'It's time the NHS agreed that it's time to make a difference. To find out more, please write to the MS Society, Freepost, 100, 100, 100, London SW6 1YZ.'



PROVIDING THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT MS

Quebec vote brings separation closer

BY DAVID USBORNE
in Montreal

THE DREAM of an independent nation of Quebec seems certain to be revived today as voters in this giant province go to the polls in an election that is predicted to hand a huge victory to the sovereigntist Parti Québécois.

Dream, that is, for some. Make that nightmare for ROC, the acronym commonly used here for the "Rest of Canada", which finds itself once more shut out, a disenfranchised witness to a political agony that for two decades has threatened to break apart a confederation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic, which still has the Queen as its head of state.

And it is a replay of a familiar nightmare too for the minority anglophones who account for just 17 per cent of the seven million people who live in Quebec. In the past 20 years, as the secessionist debate has waxed and waned, many of the province's English speakers have upped and left in despair.

Falls can be wrong. But barring the unexpected, the Parti Québécois, led by 59-year-old Lucien Bouchard, the incumbent provincial Premier and fiery hero of Canada's francophone community, will triumph today over the opposition Quebec Liberal Party headed by 40-year-old Jean Charest.

Canada will not fall apart overnight. But a victory for Mr Bouchard will open the way for him to call one more referendum – the last was in 1995 – on whether Quebec should go it alone as an independent country. The bigger the margin of his win, everyone agrees, the sooner that referendum is likely to come.

Militants among the Bouchard faithful are already



Lucien Bouchard: Leader

preparing for battle next year in the probably unrealistic hope of forging their new nation in time for the millennium.

"A country for 2000", is the motto that has been heard whispered at the back of some of Mr Bouchard's more incendiary election meetings. The leader himself, however, has been playing a more cautious, and more canny game.

That is because the politics of this race are complicated in the extreme. In a logic-defying paradox, the proportion of Quebecers who want secession seems to be on the wane. The province will return power to Bouchard in the knowledge that he is committed to nationhood. And yet 70 per cent of Quebecers also say they do not want another referendum.

Mr Bouchard, whose hero status comes in part from a terrible encounter he suffered in 1994 with a flesh-eating infection that robbed him of his left leg, has tackled the conundrum with tricky semantics. At different turns, he has evoked the ultimate solution of secession only later to promise to work for a new federal formula that will deliver new powers to all the provinces while preserving the confederation.

With more than half an eye on the so-called soft nationalists, a pivotal group of voters

who hope vaguely for independence some far-off day, Mr Bouchard has evoked what he calls a European Union model for Quebec, in which the province would remain tied to the rest of Canada but would reserve the right to exercise crucial sovereign powers.

It is a strategy, however, that Mr Charest has scorned as a smokescreen. In recent days, he has attempted to warn Quebecers that a vote for Bouchard is a vote for separation. "From that moment on, there will be an irreversible process to separate Quebec from Canada," he declared last week. "From there on, we lose total control of events – all the levers, all the cards are in their hands."

While campaigning on Saturday in Mont-Joli, Mr Charest spotted twin girls in the crowd. It was the ideal "baby opportunity", but with a twist. "Those two twin sisters are a little like the image of Quebec and Canada," he said. "It's like they're being told that as of Monday they have to be separated, that they're not made to live together, that their interests are so different, we'll never be able to reconcile them."

The irony is that Quebec is a quasi-nation already. It has its own diplomatic relationship with France and even has distinct immigration policies. If a

foreigner wants to settle in Quebec, getting papers from Ottawa is not enough. You must get them from Quebec City also. This is the case in no other province.

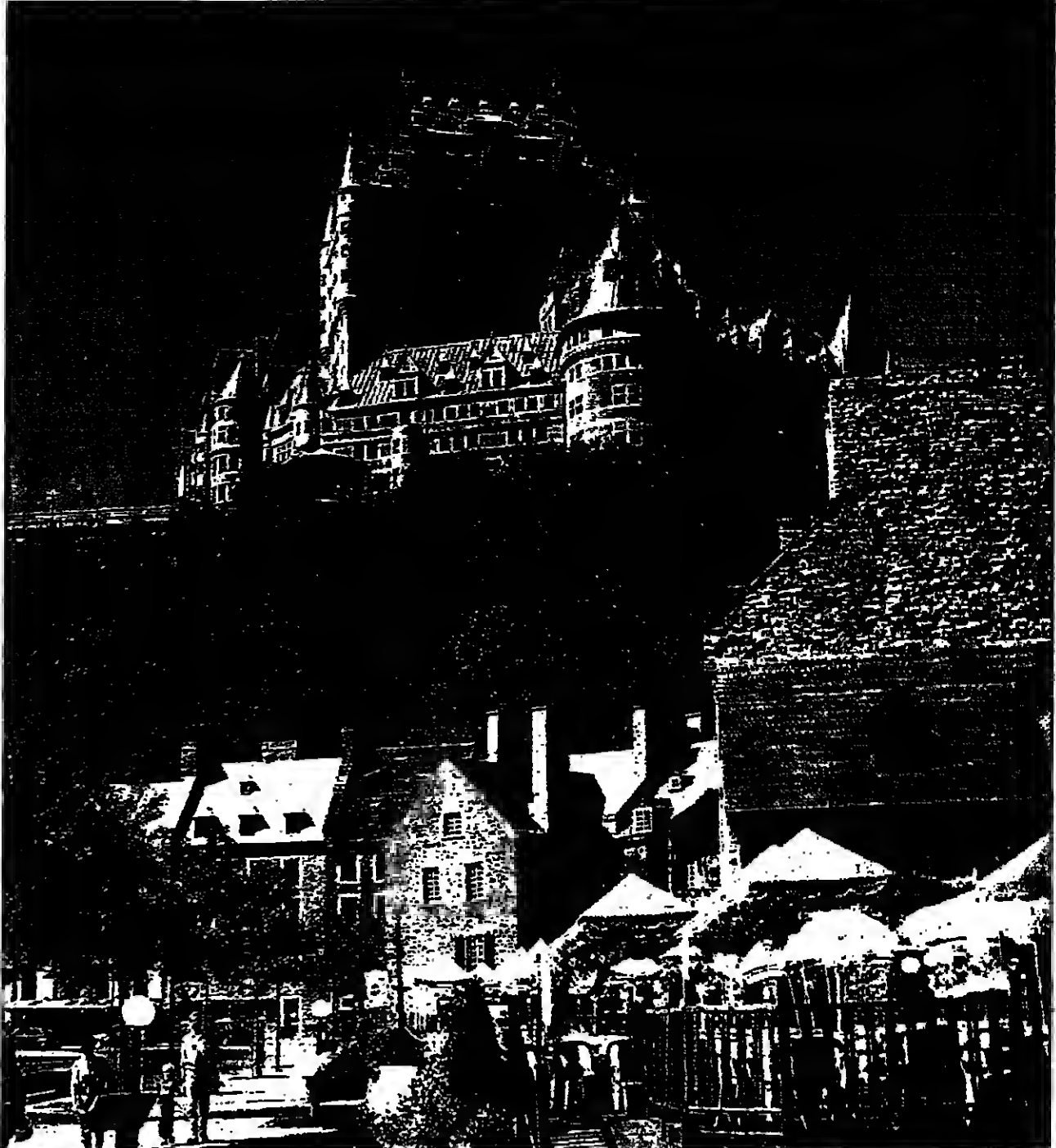
Pivotal in the next few months will be the fate of an agreement reached this summer by the provincial premiers, dubbed the "social union". This seeks to give the provinces the right to opt out of social spending programmes funded by Ottawa. They could still take federal funds for social policies, such as healthcare and education, but spend it as they wish.

In what some see as an elaborate game of poker, Mr Bouchard may be banking – probably correctly – on Ottawa rejecting the social union pact. That would be his chance to stoke the anti-federalist fires in Quebec and go at once for a referendum. In the 1995 referendum, the separatists won 49.5 per cent of the electorate.

For ROC, the spectacle of Quebec once more plunging itself and the country into the constitutional abyss is both infuriating and wearisome. There is a sense, almost, of Quebecers playing with the fate of the whole country for the fun of it. "Sometimes they're out, but mostly they just want to shake it all about," wrote Mark Steyn last week in the *National Post*.

The temptation always for English-speaking Canada is to say: "Fine, clear off then". What a relief for the folks of Vancouver no longer to have their breakfast cereal described in both English and French. But in losing Quebec, Canada would lose a quarter of its population, a huge chunk of its economic base, and surely also the most culturally alive corner of this mostly empty land.

Leading Article,
Review, page 3



Quebec City: It could soon be the capital of a new nation if today's election goes as predicted World Pictures

Police search Texan woods for death row convict on run

POLICE USING boats, horses, dogs and helicopters kept up a methodical search yesterday for a death row inmate who escaped amid a hail of bullets from Texas prison guards' rifles.

The manhunt for Martin Gurule has now shifted to a town near the prison, at Huntsville, where one resident fired shots

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

at an intruder. However police officers later said the intruder was not Gurule.

Internal affairs investigators were trying to learn how Gurule made his break from the Ellis I prison on Friday with six

other death row inmates. The other escapees were quickly recaptured. The authorities said prison video cameras did not record Gurule as he scaled two razor-rimmed fences and made good his escape.

Five hundred police officers, prison guards, sheriff's deputies and state troopers

have been combing a heavily wooded area in the south-eastern quarter of the prison grounds. There were no reports of burglaries or other sightings by residents that would indicate where Gurule, 29, might be hiding.

He was sentenced to death for the shooting in 1992 of a

restaurant owner in Corpus Christi. He lost an appeal almost a year ago, but no execution date had been set.

Guards fired about 18 rounds at the fleeing inmates on the night of the escape, forcing six of them to stop short of freedom. None of the inmates was hit in the heavy fog. Prison of-

ficials said they had camouflaged their clothing by dyeing it a greyish-black with ink they collected from felt-tipped pens.

Police in Seattle are pondering the motive of a passenger who forced a bus off a cliff when he shot the driver.

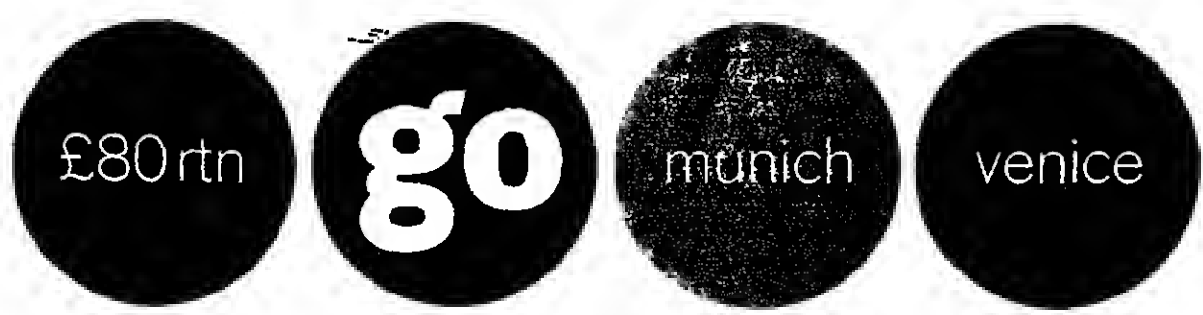
Three passengers were killed when the bus, carrying at

least 25 people, plummeted 50 feet off a busy Seattle bridge toward an apartment building.

The victims included the driver Mark McLaughlin, 44, who lost control of the bus after being hit by gunfire. Mr McLaughlin died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds to the abdomen.

Authorities did not reveal the gunman's name but said he may have been a passenger who shot himself in the head after firing at Mr McLaughlin.

Sources in Seattle identified the man as Silas Cool, a 43-year-old unemployed man. The bus was ripped apart by the fall from the bridge.



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as predicted World Pictures

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Gandhi party sweeps board in state polls

INDIA'S POLITICS entered a new phase of uncertainty yesterday when the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which leads the central government, was humiliated by the Congress party in regional elections.

Congress, led by the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, widow of late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, won convincingly in state legislative elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

In each case Congress reversed the BJP's supremacy, and in Madhya Pradesh surprised even their own supporters by the scale of their success.

The results were variously seen as a personal triumph for Sonia Gandhi, a thumbs-down for the BJP's ineffective rule, and an angry reaction to escalating prices of basic commodities.

Onions, for example, the most basic staple of the Indian diet after rice, have risen in

price by more than 1,000 per cent in recent months, and the government, which H-bombed its way into the world's awareness in May, has been unable to think of any way to bring them down.

The defeats provoked a flurry of speculation about how much longer the government can survive. It is a baggy coalition of 19 partners, few of which have much more in common than the desire to be in power. Some of them will now be tempted to peel away and back Congress in early elections.

But Sonia Gandhi, who has now received her first popular endorsement since taking over as leader of Congress in April, is unlikely to be rushed into a hasty attempt to pull down the government.

Her strategy so far has been to let it fall apart of its own ac-

cord rather than risk public anger by working to hasten it - and the strategy proved correct at the weekend.

As one of the BJP's star players, Sushma Swaraj, put it ruefully as the results were still coming in: "Our house was burnt down by the people living in it." Mrs Gandhi told a television interviewer: "We have gained a lot of strength, but we have to get down to work."

When asked whether she would seek an early vote of no confidence against the government, she said: "We ought not to rush into certain situations. I wouldn't like to do so."

But the BJP's losses bring much closer the day when India is likely to get its fourth Gandhi as prime minister, although the first one born outside the country.

In all, Jawaharlal, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi ruled India for more than 38 years.

The BJP government will do



Sonia Gandhi, leader of the Congress Party, greeting supporters in Delhi after her party's poll success AP

its best to stagger on regardless. The BJP's parliamentary leaders were due to meet their allies yesterday. Admitting defeat, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, said voters appeared to

want a change, although he insisted that the reverses in the polls would not stop the country's economic reform programme.

However, a worsening eco-

nomic recession will now be aggravated further by investor nervousness at the return of political volatility.

Jairam Ramesh, secretary of Congress's economic cell, pre-

dicted that another general election would be held between April and September of next year, following a second wave of regional elections which may humiliate the BJP some more.

Outback revolts against bankers

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S embattled rural communities are in revolt against the country's big four banks, with dozens of towns and villages queuing up to start their own community lending institutions instead.

The revolt has been triggered by the closure of bank branches, one-sixth of which have disappeared from the high streets in the past four years. But it has been stoked by growing resentment in the outback against the banks' rising fees, profits and executive salaries.

In the railway town of Henty, New South Wales, pensioners complain that they must now pay two dollars simply to cash their weekly pension cheques across the counter.

The Commonwealth, which announced further fee increases this week, was the last of five banks to pull out of Henty's "main drag". Locals saw the Commonwealth's closure as a portent of disaster, for times are difficult.

At the pawnbroker's, the manageress has dropped interest rates to help young mothers who were bringing in tables and chairs to raise cash for groceries. "Country life is becoming... a very sad state," she said.

But Henty's high street became the setting for a fightback. A retired farmer, Milton Taylor, had heard earlier this year about a small country bank, The Bendigo. "Some people gave us everything they had," he said, referring to the amounts he received to start the Henty Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank. In only a fortnight \$100,000 was raised to buy and fit out premises, recruit staff and open for business.

But over the past two weeks, more than £2m has flooded in to the bank, as locals stampeded out of the big four in favour of the newcomer, whose profits must be invested in the community.

Bendigo's inspiration was Mohammed Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, last week named winner of the Sydney Peace Prize.

Sacking by blackmail is latest corporate trick

BEING SACKED is never pleasant, but Hong Kong employers are demonstrating a nasty ability to make a trauma out of a dilemma.

As the economic recession gathers pace, companies in the former British colony are resorting to increasingly devious ways to ensure that they do not have to fork out even the minimum sum for redundancy, which is laid down by law.

A friend of mine had been employed by a publicly listed service company for more than 11 years. He worked his way up to a senior management position. However, the company is facing hard times, although the division he was running happened to be turning out healthy profits. Economies were hav-

ing to be made and the number of more highly paid staff reduced.

Without warning, he was called in by the inappropriately named human resources department and told his performance was not up to scratch.

Moreover, the managers hinted that improprieties had been discovered in some of the goods-ordering for which he was responsible. "We want you to resign," they said. If he did, they said, there would be no investigation into the alleged improprieties, nor would he face the ignominy of being sacked. They even said they would pay his last month's wages.

But they neglected to conduct some elementary checks,

which would have shown that the alleged improprieties involved matters over which one of the company directors had given his explicit approval.

My friend challenged his accusers to provide evidence. A silence followed. Two weeks later he was called in and told that in fact they needed to make him redundant. Would he be receiving his full entitlement to redundancy pay? Yes, off course, came the answer. Would the company formally say that it was dropping all accusations against him? That was difficult, they said. How about a personal letter from the chairman warning him of a "no prejudice basis"?

This is not an isolated example in Hong Kong. One very

large company sought to avoid paying pregnancy leave to a woman for theft of - wait for it - a cinema ticket. She won a small amount of compensation from a labour tribunal but she remained out of a job.

The trend in Hong Kong was started by the British controlled Hongkong Telecom company. This firm announced a pay cut for employees and the sack for those who would not accept it. Hongkong Telecom is so big that its actions attracted widespread attention and a storm ensued. The company was forced to back down, but,

not before it had replaced its ultimatum over wage cuts with another for cutting statutory bonuses, which amounts to much the same thing.

The telecommunications company opened the floodgates. An upmarket clothing chain, called The Swank Shop, ordered its staff to take a 15 per cent pay cut or be sacked. The hard-hat hotel industry is also busy laying off people and tearing up the contracts of those who remain, saying that they either accept lower pay and conditions or collect their cards.

A paging company demonstrated its communication skills by sending a pager message to all its staff, extending work hours and cutting their commissions.

Some companies have been solving the problem of paying for staff redundancies by the simple expedient of closing the firm overnight and posting a notice on their front doors, saying the owners have gone away. These same owners soon reappear somewhere else and start up new businesses.

At the end of last week the Court of Appeal in Hong Kong finally passed judgment on the case of an employee who has fought a four-year battle for long-service redundancy pay from a company that fired him one day before he was due to receive his long-service entitlement. Lower courts had found in favour of the employees but the appeal court did not.

There is no doubt times are

tough in Hong Kong, and that what is euphemistically known as downsizing has to take place. But the brutality with which it is being done is hardly conducive to the spirit of "pulling together", which the government is constantly urging on the populace.

Employment contracts increasingly look as though they are not worth the paper they are printed on. Unfortunately, environmentally minded Hong Kong citizens hoping to send off their redundant contracts for recycling cannot do so, as Hong Kong's only paper recycling company has just closed, throwing 400 people out of work without a moment's notice.

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BUSINESS

Barclays wants industry insider to replace Taylor

BRIEFING

Growth forecast 'unlikely to be met'

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic growth forecast for next year is unlikely to be met due to the widening UK trade balance, according to an academic think-tank. In a report out today, the Institute for Manufacturing says that recent trade figures cast "grave doubts" on the Chancellor Gordon Brown's prediction of 1 to 1.5 per cent growth for 1999. The Institute, made up of Cambridge University academics and industry representatives, warns that the crisis in South-east Asia and the continuing strength of sterling will cripple exporters and slow down growth.

More's \$200m subway contract



MORE GROUP, the outdoor advertising company that was taken over by the US media giant Clear Channel Communications earlier this year, has made a major breakthrough in the United States by winning a contract worth up to \$200m in New York City. More's Adshel subsidiary has clinched a seven-year deal with the Manhattan Transport Authority, which operates New York's subway system, to supply and manage 1,200 illuminated advertising panels. The panels will be fitted on railings outside subway stations, in full view of all passing traffic.

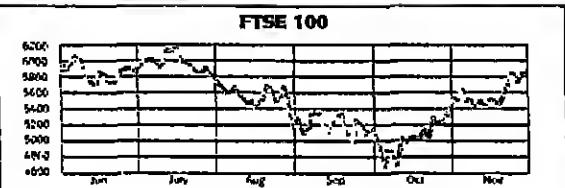
The contract, which was won against tough competition from US rivals, shows that More's approach is proving successful outside the UK.

Private investors to boom

THE NUMBER of wealthy private investors is set to balloon over the next seven years, according to a report published yesterday by the US investment bank Merrill Lynch and management consultancy firm Gemini Consulting.

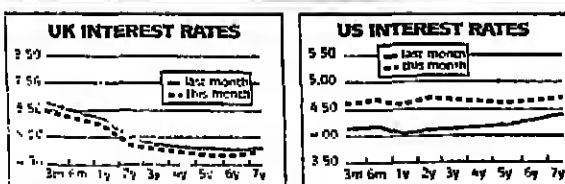
The report predicts that the number of UK investors with financial assets of more than £50,000 will rise by 25 per cent by the year 2005. This rise in private wealth will be driven by an ever-increasing reliance on private pensions as state provision is progressively reduced and the average age of the population rises, the report says.

STOCK MARKETS



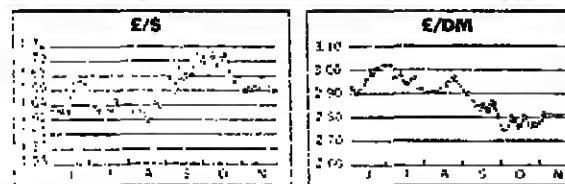
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5844.20	126.70	2.22	6183.7	4599.2	3.22
FTSE 250	4928.00	83.00	1.71	5970	4247	4.71
FTSE 350	2163.60	39.40	1.84	2668.1	2210.4	3.46
FTSE All Share	2658.30	54.15	2.07	2865.22	2143.53	3.49
FTSE Smallcap	2070.30	17.20	0.84	2793	1834	4.08
FTSE Fledgling	1143.50	6.40	0.56	1517.1	1046.2	0.004
FTSE AIM	814.10	-0.70	-0.09	1146	761	0.002
FTSE EBOC 100	989.53					
Dow Jones	9333.08	171.53	1.90	9380	7400	1.604
Nikkei	15692.39	289.45	1.86	17352	12287	0.972
Hang Seng	10742.11	508.75	4.97	11926	6544	2.907
Dax	5121.48	209.60	4.27	6217.83	3833.71	1.735

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES				BOND YIELDS			
Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.25	4.50	4.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	-1.95
US	5.25	4.50	4.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	-1.95
Germany	5.25	4.50	4.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	-1.95

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
Index	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr ago	Index	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6730	-0.221	-1.323	Swiss	0.607	-0.108	-0.9379
Mark	2.2293	-0.277	-1.2524	Dollar	1.2134	-0.156	-1.2651
Yen	203.78	-0.37	-0.18	Yen	123.04	-0.264	-1.2651
£/\$	101.10	+1.00	101.40	\$/£	107.60	1.10	107.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr ago	Index	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr ago
Brent Crude Oil	10.74	0.07	10.55	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	296.20	3.45		API	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.94	-0.03	5.27	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

From	To	Rate	From	To	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5083		Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.90	
Austria (schilling)	19.18		Netherlands (guilder)	3.0760	
Belgium (franc)	56.39		New Zealand (\$)	3.0958	
Canada (\$)	2.4719		Norway (krone)	12.11	
Cyprus (pound)	0.8041		Portugal (escudo)	278.61	
Denmark (krone)	10.44		Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0362	
Finland (markka)	5.3672		Singapore (\$)	2.6085	
France (franc)	4.1605		Spain (peseta)	331.93	
Germany (mark)	2.7402		South Africa (rand)	9.0859	
Greece (drachma)	459.43		Sweden (krone)	13.15	
Hong Kong (\$)	12.37		Switzerland (franc)	2.2606	
Ireland (pound)	1.1962		Thailand (baht)	54.93	
India (rupee)	63.31		Turkey (lira)	480.289	
Indonesia (rupiah)	6.3920		USA (\$)	1.6101	
Italy (lira)	2716				
Japan (yen)	198.64				
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0370				
Malta (lira)	0.6095				

BARCLAYS BANK has asked City headhunting firm Spencer Stuart to lead the search for a replacement for Martin Taylor, whose surprise resignation as chief executive rocked the City last week.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

have a wide-ranging search. We are looking for someone who is a significant leader with banking experience," he said.

A meeting between representatives of Spencer Stuart and Andrew Buxton, the Barclays chairman, has been scheduled for early this week.

Sir Nigel's remarks would appear to rule out Keith Oates, the Marks & Spencer deputy chairman who lost out in the power struggle at the high street retailer last week and whose name surfaced as a potential candidate at the weekend.

Sir Nigel also cast doubt on the suitability of John Varley, the well-regarded head of Barclays Global Investors, Barclays investment arm, who has also been mentioned as a possible chief executive over the last few days.

"We have some very good talent but they may not be ready for a job at that level," he said.

Sir Nigel, who is the chairman of property group Slough Estates, rejected suggestions that Sir Peter Middleton, who has stepped into the breach, had been put in to secure a quick merger with another financial institution. He rejected suggestions that a deal with either

Halifax or Lloyds-TSB, both of whom have surfaced as potential bidders since Mr Taylor left, would be in the bank's interest.

"I don't think that is necessarily the solution. We should not overreact to anything. Sir Peter Middleton needs a bit of time to review the options," he said.

However, Sir Nigel admitted that if the situation was still seen to be drifting in six months' time, Barclays would clearly be vulnerable.

"If that is still the situation in six months' time we will have to deal with it as it arrives," he said. He added: "The business is really going very well. We have

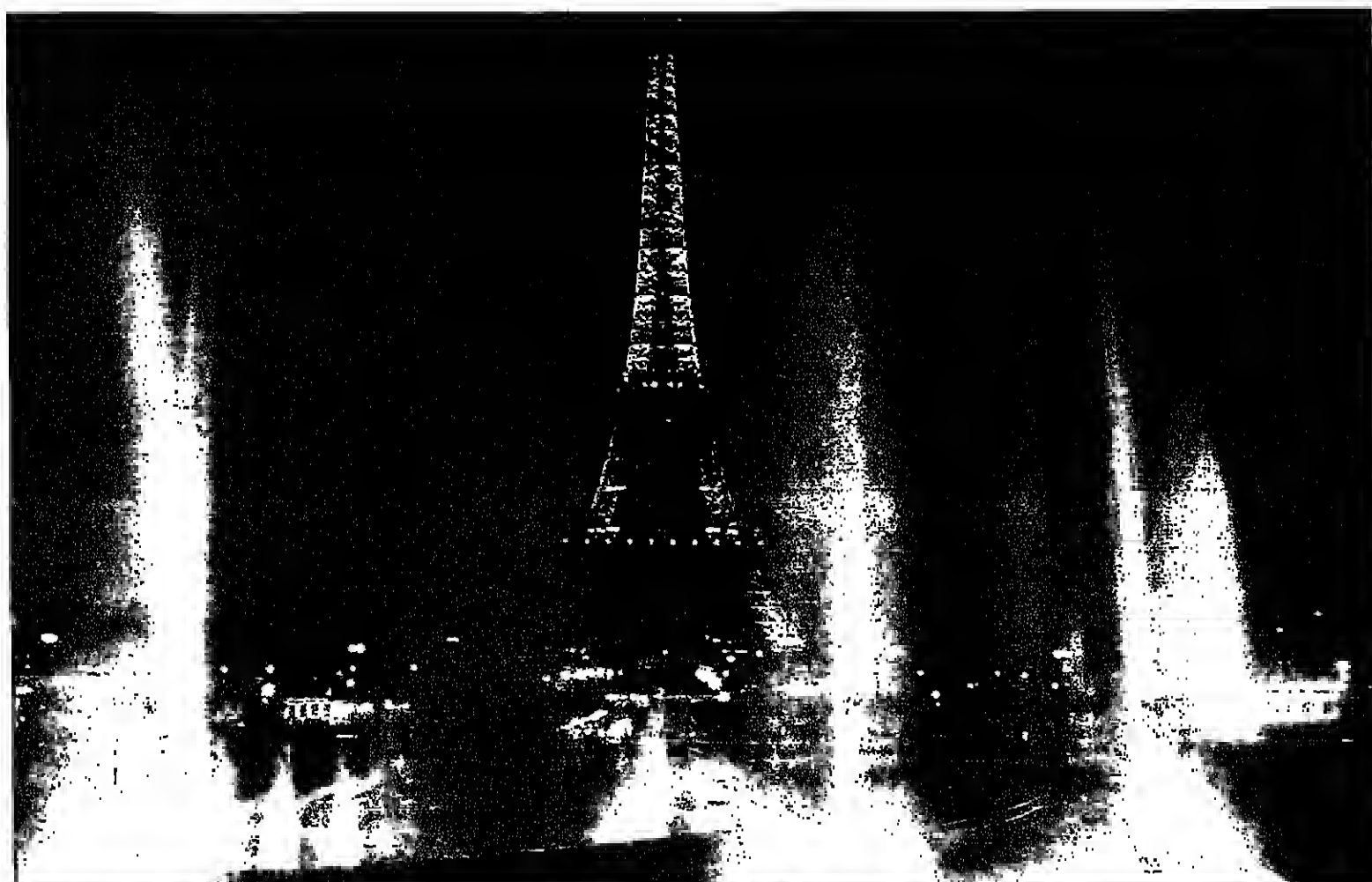
some excellent management. All financial institutions are going through a period of reappraisal, that is not unique to Barclays."

Sir Nigel also cast doubt on weekend accounts of the drama that led to Mr Taylor's departure. He described reports that the rift between the board and Mr Taylor stemmed from a clash a year ago with non-executive director Nigel Rudd over the BZW sale as one of the "more fictional elements".

City sources said last night that both Jon Foulds, the Halifax chairman, and Lloyd's Sir Brian Pitman will be watching developments closely to see if there is an opening that would

allow them to make a successful bid approach. However, they warned that Sir Peter "was no pushover," and that the board believed that Barclays was a "great bank and should remain so" and was not about to surrender the bank's independence.

A key priority for Sir Peter will be to end the uncertainty that has plagued Barclays Capital, Barclays' bond trading business, since the Russian crisis. The group yesterday denied reports of a major cull but admitted that "it is no secret that there are strategic issues at Barclays Capital which have to be addressed".



The Eiffel Tower will be lit by UK generators for the next nine months. Aggreko, the Glasgow-based power hire group, has won the contract to supply electricity to the Paris landmark while a nearby power station is being refurbished. This is the second high-profile deal for Aggreko, which was spun off from Christian Salvesen in July. It also supplied water-sloshing machines for the blockbuster movie Titanic.

Cuts as Deutsche unveils deal today

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

PLANS to slash at least \$1bn of costs over the next three years are expected to be announced when Germany's Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust of America unveil the details of their \$9.5bn merger at the German bank's headquarters in Frankfurt today.

It is believed that Deutsche may have agreed to buy up to \$600m of stock options held by senior Bankers Trust executives in order to secure their full backing for the deal.

As many as 3,000 jobs, many of them at Deutsche's American operations, could go. Job cuts in the City of London - where there is overlap between Deutsche, with 6,000 staff, and Bankers Trust's broking arm BT Alex. Brown, with 2,500 - could amount to between 500 and 1,000, said analysts.

The new combined entity, to be called Deutsche Bankers Trust, will be the world's biggest bank, overtaking Switzerland's UBS with \$800bn of assets.

A committee headed by Frank Newman, the Bankers Trust chairman, and Josef Ackermann, Deutsche's head of investment banking, will be formed to oversee the integration of the two banks. Mr Newman will join Deutsche's management board. It adopted English as its working language several years ago.

Also joining the integration committee are Bankers Trust's Yves De Balmann, Mayo Shattuck and Mary Cirillo, and from the Deutsche Bank side, Edson Mitchell and Mike Phillips. The overlap is particularly acute on the foreign exchange and fixed income trading side.

"How aggressive Deutsche Bank will be in cutting the overlap remains to be seen," said Matthew Czepliwicz, an analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, the investment bank. "One problem is that areas of overlap are also areas of high revenue."

Terms of the deal, which is being structured as a takeover bid by Deutsche for Bankers Trust at \$93 a share, were to be approved by the boards of the two banks at meetings last night.

A key issue will be how Deutsche finances the deal. There was talk late last week that it may seek to raise the bulk of the funds through the innovative technique of allowing Bankers Trust shareholders to take some of Deutsche Bank's holdings in DaimlerChrysler, the auto giant, in exchange for Bankers Trust shares.

Deutsche may seek tax concessions from the German government to allow it to sell some of its considerable holdings in German industrial companies without attracting the punitive capital gains tax. However, most analysts believe that some element of capital increase will be needed to fund the deal.

Critics of the deal argue that Deutsche has a long way to go to persuade its shareholders that it can integrate another bank successfully.

BP to buy \$5bn Mobil stake

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

BRITISH PETROLEUM is expected to buy Mobil's stake in their \$5bn European joint venture at a cut price if the oil mega-merger between Exxon and Mobil goes ahead.

Industry sources believe that a \$238bn tie-up between the US groups, which confirmed merger talks last week, will give BP a golden chance to take control of one of Europe's largest fuels and lubricants businesses on the cheap.

European Union anti-competition authorities are widely expected to force Mobil to dispose of its stake in the BP joint venture, set up in 1996, as a condition for the approval of the merger. Oil experts believe that without the sale the deal could be rejected as Exxon/Mobil would have a near-dominant position in downstream activities in the UK and other European countries.

The regulatory pressure for a speedy disposal would enable BP to negotiate a bargain price for Mobil's stake. The US group's assets in the joint venture, which controls around

2,000 petrol stations in Britain, were valued at \$1.6bn in 1996. A number of observers believe that BP will pay less than that if Mobil is pushed into a fire sale.

BP refused to comment yesterday, but sources close to the company said it would be keen to buy out the joint venture at a low price.

However, they said that the board has not taken a final decision on the merger as most of the top executives' time has been taken up by the \$110bn merger with the US oil group Amoco.

The BP/Mobil deal pools almost all of the two companies' activities apart from pumping the oil out of the ground. It covers refineries, pipelines, tankage and terminals in 43 countries, including all the EU states, Switzerland, Cyprus, Turkey, Russia and all of Eastern Europe. It also operates 9,000 petrol stations under the BP logo, one of Europe's largest networks of forecourts.

Goldman Sachs aims for IPO in end-1999

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

SENIOR PARTNERS at Goldman Sachs are pushing to revive its stalled \$30m Initial Public Offering (IPO) attempt next spring with a view to coming to the market in autumn next year.

Wall Street's most prestigious investment house cancelled its planned float at the 11th hour in September after fears that the stockmarket crisis, which wiped 60 per cent off the value of rival securities firms, could spark global financial meltdown.

Now, with the New York stockmarket close to pre-crash highs, Jon Corzine, Goldman's head, is looking to push ahead with the IPO for fear that further delay could allow partners opposed to the firm ditching its partnership status to regroup. Morale, said insiders, has been badly hit by the decision not to go ahead, with rivals eagerly seizing on September's events as proof that the kings of Wall Street have lost their touch.

The embarrassment has been compounded by the fact that, with the markets having bounced back faster than was

expected, other IPOs that were shelved in late September, such as the float of Rupert Murdoch's Fox TV, have been brought back successfully recently.

Since the decision not to go ahead, Mr Corzine's leadership has come increasingly under fire. Rumours of unrest continue to surface within the bank with John Thornton, a partner opposed to the IPO, and Jon

Thain, the chief financial officer, being touted as replacements for Mr Corzine. The firm has also been hit by the decision of several older, more experienced partners to retire now rather than sit out what they fear will be a choppy time for the firm.

Mr Corzine, who is seeking to counter the drift, has spoken to colleagues about calling a full meeting of Goldman partners next May to approve a new IPO attempt. By that time he hopes that the markets will have stabilized sufficiently for the bank to have recovered its profitability after two bruising quarters.

One source said yesterday: "They were completely focussed on the float. Now that has not happened they do not know what to do."

Critics said that Goldman could have got its IPO away provided partners were prepared to accept a lower valuation. But sources close to Mr Corzine maintain that this would have been difficult. The bank reported a disappointing third quarter, and fourth quarter results, due soon, are believed to be worse.



Jon Corzine, Goldman's head, is under fire

No buyer, no fee for Morgan in GRE deal

BY ANDREW GARFIELD AND FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MORGAN STANLEY has signed a no-deal, no-fee agreement with Guardian Royal Exchange under which the US investment bank will receive no money if it fails to find a buyer for the insurer.

The arrangement between Morgan Stanley and GRE will increase pressure on the Wall Street bank to strike a deal with one of the suitors for GRE that have come forward since the insurer put itself up for sale

last week. A number of potential bidders so far emerged with Britain's Royal & Sun Alliance and Allianz of Germany believed to have indicated that they might be prepared to table a bid for the group. That is in addition to Axa, whose original £2.5bn approach earlier this month forced GRE's hand.

Another surprise entry to the fray over the weekend was Independent Insurance, the fast-growing group headed by Michael Bright, which has indicated it may be willing to pitch for parts of the group if chief executive John Robins was ready to pursue the idea of a break-up.

City analysts remain sceptical that the interest will translate to a deal at anything like the £4 to £4.50 some shareholders are hoping to receive. That would value the group at £3.5bn.

Several City houses are urging investors to sell GRE at the current price.

GRE shares rose more than 10 per cent in the first half of last week after it announced that it was open to offers. However, it fell back later to 336.5p on Friday, as scepticism about the willingness of potential bidders to pay the asking price grew.

Weekend speculation that Mr Bright was plotting a reverse takeover of GRE was dismissed

yesterday as "wide of the mark". But Independent, which specialises in high-margin businesses such as classic-car insurance, could be interested in GRE's overseas businesses. It is less keen on its UK motor and home insurance operations, which it sees as largely low-margin commodity businesses.

Morgan Stanley is also hopeful that financial bidders may be willing to throw their hats into the ring.

مكتبة الجليل

Are we repeating errors of 1987-88?

FEW WEEKS AGO, the financial markets were in a dire mood. There seemed a genuine chance that the bursting of a leveraged bubble would not only trigger a spectacular end to the bull run in financial markets, but would also greatly damage the capital of the banking sector in the US and Europe. The world economy, barely coping with continuous stream of accidents in emerging markets, faced both credit crunch in the banking markets, and weakening consumers' expenditure as share prices declined.



GAVIN DAVIES

The central banks must now be wondering whether they were right to take any action to ease policy at all

This threatened to prove a toxic combination for global GDP growth, not only from the point of view of safeguarding the health of the world's financial system, but also to avoid a world recession, a significant easing in monetary policy seemed essential.

To their credit, the central banks responded swiftly to the changing global economic environment. As recently as July 1998, both the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England were still biased towards tightening policy. At that time, they were worried about inflationary pressures emanating from their domestic labour markets, and they feared that excessively lax conditions in the financial markets were driving equity markets to unsustainably high levels.

During the late summer and early autumn, however, increasingly powerful deflationary forces became apparent in manufacturing sectors around the world. Just as worrying, the "leveraged bubble" in asset markets showed every sign of not just reversing, but of imploding in a disorderly fashion. Irrational exuberance was turning to mindless despair.

The resulting cuts in interest rates - 0.75 per cent from both the

Federal Reserve and the Bank of England, 0.40 per cent from the European Central Bank, and 0.25 per cent from the Bank of Japan - have created an entirely new climate. Now, instead of worrying about the risk of global deflation, the central banks must be wondering whether they were right to take any action to ease policy at all. By ensuring that they have avoided their worst nightmare - the risk of reliving the deflationary shock of 1929/30 - they might instead have triggered their second worst nightmare - that of reliving an inflationary bubble similar to 1987/88.

No forecaster is likely to forget the late 1980s. Typically forecasts for US economic growth in 1988, made in September 1987, were around 3 per cent. After the October stockmarket crash, these forecasts were generally revised down to around 0.1 per cent. The outcome, after the Federal Reserve had eased, was as high as 4 per cent. The eventual consequence for inflation and asset markets was disastrous. Similar, though less dramatic, mistakes were made throughout the world. Is it possible that the same mistakes have been made again?

Certainly damage to the financial system has been repaired just as rapidly as it was in 1987. At the height

of the recent crisis, the wipeout in world financial wealth compared to the July peak amounted to almost one-fifth of the annual total of OECD consumers' expenditure. Coincidentally, this was almost exactly the same as the wipeout of wealth that occurred in the immediate aftermath of the 1987 stockmarket crash.

For a short while, both in 1987 and this year, the reduction in wealth threatened to eliminate the buoyancy of the US consumer (who has been, crucially, "the consumer of last resort" in the world system), and hence lead to global recession. However, given the success of the swift measures to ease world monetary policy, global financial wealth has now repaired all of its losses, returning to the peak levels recorded in July.

Once again, this closely replicates the behaviour of markets in 1987. Furthermore, the dangers of a prolonged credit crunch in the banking system have obviously receded sharply.

Does this mean that the central banks were mistaken to ease policy, just as they were in 1987? Fortunately, the answer to this question is "no".

First, the prime duty of a central bank is to ensure the integrity of its financial system, and act as lender

of last resort if necessary. The size and unusual nature of the interest rate cuts introduced in the UK and US in recent weeks effectively signalled that the central banks were willing to provide liquidity to the financial system as required. Confidence therefore returned to the private sector, and this made it unnecessary for the central banks to act formally as lender of last resort - for example by opening the US discount window. This was a mission successfully accomplished, not a cause for complaint. Had they failed to do so, the central banks would have been accused of a much more serious crime - fiddling while their financial sectors burned.

Second, the exceptionally low rate of inflation now visible in the world economy means that the risk/return trade-off for central bankers looks very different from 1987. Then, the inflation rate in OECD economies was over 3 per cent and rising markedly. Now, the inflation rate is under 1 per cent - measured by GDP deflators - and is falling gradually.

As Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chairman, has repeatedly argued, this means that mistakes made in an expansionary direction are unlikely to prove too costly, while mistakes made in a contractionary direction could tip the world into outright deflation. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and for so long an inflation hawk, has also shown a ready understanding that things have changed.

Third, there is the question of what was likely to happen to the economy in the absence of financial shocks, based on the underlying momentum of consumer and business conditions. In this respect, there are some sharp differences between the present situation and 1987.

These differences do not relate to the consumer sector, where confidence is fairly high at present, just as it was prior to the crash in 1987. Rather, the differences relate to business confidence, which is much weaker now than it was 11 years ago. The impact of shocks from emerging markets, taken together with the fact that real interest rates have been rising in many countries (especially in non-Japan Asia, where monetary easing has been most needed), has resulted in global business confidence falling sharply for the last 12 months. It now stands about one standard deviation below normal. By contrast, in 1987 global business conditions were booming ahead of the stockmarket crash, and monetary policy clearly needed to be

tightened considerably to bring this under control.

This implies the following. Even if, as in 1987, recent financial shocks prove to have no effect on world economic conditions, the outcome on this occasion should be markedly different, with the underlying weakness in business conditions taking its toll on GDP growth next year, rather than fueling a major acceleration in growth as in 1988. Most forecasters, including Goldman Sachs, believe that the OECD economies will be lucky to record growth as high as 1.5 per cent next year. Some believe that the UK will be lucky to record zero.

Overall, therefore, it seems unlikely that the central banks have repeated their 1987 mistake by easing monetary policy inappropriately in response to a temporary stockmarket crash. Global monetary policy has been too tight throughout 1998, at least measured by real short-term interest rates, and the recent easing has therefore been appropriate, indeed overdue.

This easing will not involve significant inflation risks (at any rate during 1999), and will reduce recession risks. It has therefore been a good thing, which will not need to be rapidly reversed, and the financial markets have been right to recognise this.

Cuts as Deutsche unveils deal today

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

PLANS to slash at least \$100m from the next three years are expected to be unveiled when Germany's Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust announce the details of their \$1.5bn merger at the German Bank's headquarters in Frankfurt today.

The deal, which Deutsche Bank is expected to buy out Bankers Trust, is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The merger is expected to create a new global banking giant, with a combined capital base of \$1.5bn.

The deal is expected to be a major blow to the German government's efforts to reduce the size of the public sector. The merger is expected to result in the loss of 10,000 jobs.

Rental firms sue Government for £400m

CONSUMER RENTALS groups Thorn and Granada are suing the Government for up to £400m over the insurance tax. They claim that it has unlawfully raised the cost of extended warranty insurance on consumer goods and resulted in widespread shop closures and the loss of more than 500 jobs.

WHO'S SUING WHOM
JOHN WILLCOCK

Thorn served a writ on the Attorney General and the Commissioners for Customs and Excise on Monday, and Granada issued a similar writ on Thursday.

The companies claim that the higher rate Insurance Premium Tax (IPT), introduced in the Finance Act last year, is unlawful under European law.

The action will affect millions of warranties taken out by customers buying consumer goods in hundreds of Thorn and Granada shops.

Thorn is claiming an estimated £50m in damages over the problems the tax has caused this business, as well as the repayment of £125m in tax. Granada has yet to estimate how much it will be claiming, but says it is a larger retailer than Thorn's claims are expected to be even greater.

The dispute revolves around the tax levied on warranties issued along with consumer goods at the point of sale. If the warranty is provided by the company when the customer is buying the television set or satellite dish, IPT is levied on the insurance premiums at 17.5 per cent. However, if the customer goes somewhere else to obtain a warranty on the same goods,

only 4 per cent would be levied on the insurance premiums.

Since this tax was introduced in April last year, Thorn claims that it has been forced to close 90 shops and sack 500 employees because of the added costs of the tax. Granada claims that it has closed 100 of the 565 shops it had open when the tax was introduced, and has been forced to make "a significant number of redundancies" because of the introduction of higher rate IPT.

Paul Thompson, a director with GIL Insurance, a subsidiary of Granada, said: "It wouldn't surprise me if other companies were looking at this. We haven't completed our calculations of how much we will be claiming, but the sum will be in the tens of millions. Each day that goes by our claim will increase, so that could be understated."

Both companies are claiming that higher rate IPT is unlawful under the European Community's sixth VAT directive. They also claim that higher rate IPT constitutes unlawful state aid under the Treaty of Rome since it prejudices customers against



Hundreds of people who have leased pubs, shops and petrol stations will be affected by landmark rulings on two test cases - Courage v Crehan and Intreprenuer v Hain and Raper - in the High Court last week. Chris Wolf

buying warranties with their consumer goods.

Lawyers working on the case expect proceedings to last for at least two years, and also anticipate that the dispute will end up in the Court of Appeal.

THE INTREPRENEUR Pub Company is confident that two landmark rulings in the courts last week meant that a potential 400 legal claims, worth up to half a billion pounds against the company by the people who

lease their pubs, will now fail. The High Court judgement by Mr Justice Carnwath in the two test cases - Courage versus Crehan and Intreprenuer versus Hain and Raper - concluded that lessees who signed a contract that contained an allegedly unlawful beer tie were not entitled to damages, even if the beer tie was unlawful.

Intreprenuer and other companies that have similar leases, such as Scottish & Newcastle, Gibbs Mew and Esso,

have waited three-and-a-half years for the Crehan decision. Hundreds of people who have leased pubs, shops and petrol stations will be affected.

Mr Justice Carnwath upheld previous judgements that the parties to a contract were not protected by Article 85, which was intended to protect third parties, not the participants in a contract.

Intreprenuer, which owns 4,000 pubs and is owned by the Japanese investment bank No-

mura, welcomed Mr Justice Carnwath's decision. A spokesman said: "This is a big decision for us."

A TRIAL starts in Swansea this Wednesday to decide a seven-year-old dispute between a small hi-tech start up and its former accountant PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Rapid Research was set up in the late 1980s to develop display systems for airports, and since then has supplied display

systems to Stansted, Glasgow and parts of Gatwick and Heathrow.

The company hired Coopers & Lybrand - now PricewaterhouseCoopers - in 1990 to handle its accounts during a period of rapid growth. The company claims that PwC failed to complete its accounts on time, and that as a consequence of this Rapid Research's bankers, Barclays, withdrew support.

Rapid Research ended its association with PwC in July 1991 and refused to pay the firm's bill. PwC sued the company for £7,000 in respect of the unpaid fees.

Rapid Research then counter-sued PwC for £600,000, claiming that the accountancy firm's behaviour had encouraged Barclays to withdraw support, and as a result several big orders from the likes of Phillips and London Underground had been lost.

AN INTERNET company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, is suing three Jersey-based firms and another in north London over the use of the name "LINX" and "London Internet Exchange".

The London Internet Exchange is seeking an injunction against Tele Linx, Tele Linx Holdings and Cordoba Holdings, all of St Helier, Jersey, and Cordoba of Commerce Road, Wood Green, London. The company is also seeking a court order to get the first two to change their names to ones that do not include "LINX" or London Internet Exchange.

IN BRIEF

France Telecom shares priced

THE FRENCH government yesterday said it would raise 36.8bn French francs (£3.9bn) from the sale of France Telecom shares to private investors in Europe's biggest public offering of the year.

Nearly 3m people have signed up for the shares, to be offered at 390 francs each, in the hope of seeing a repeat of the gains that followed France Telecom's £3.3bn initial public offering in October last year.

£5m IT backing

ORCHESTREUM, a software company founded by 23-year-old Charles Muirhead, yesterday received £5m from a group of venture capitalists and Reuters, the information group. The funds will be used to develop a software package to improve the use of the Internet. Orchestrum provides filters the net's traffic, enabling users to receive quickly the information they require.

TM buys Martin's

TM GROUP, the operator of Forbuys newsgroups, yesterday acquired TOG, the owner of the Martin's chain of corner shops, for £75m. The acquisition will bring together Forbuys's 640 shops and Martin's 780 outlets to create one of Britain's largest neighbourhood retailers. The combined group will have over 200 convenience stores, 200 high street shops and 1,000 corner shops.

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SPORT

Squash: British champion is ready to assume the world throne which Jansher Khan made his own for a decade

Nicol relishes his date with destiny

IAN
STAFFORD

HE GREETs you with a smile and a confident shake of the hand; the Scot who, in the space of a single year, has become a dominant force in world squash. The name Peter Nicol may not yet have the lasting gravitas of Jonah Barrington, at least not in this country, but you can be assured of one certainty. It soon will.

Barrington's name lives on in legendary status partly because he was the last British squash player to be crowned world champion, although in strict terms a world open did not exist in the early 1970s when the man interrupted the steady flow of Pakistani success.

Nicol should, and most probably will, lay this particular ghost to bed at this year's World Championships in Qatar, which began on Saturday. Don't take anyone else's word for it, though. Take his instead.

"Yes, I should win it," he said, quite freely, "shouldn't I? I don't mind being the favourite at all. It tells me that I must have been playing well this year, and it underlines other people's expectations."

By anyone's sporting standards, Nicol has enjoyed a quite remarkable year. A top ranking in the world, a British Open title, to add to five others on the tour, and a Commonwealth Games gold medal have all come his relentless way. Any challengers to his lofty position seem, including the permanently injured Jansher Khan, to have fallen by the wayside.

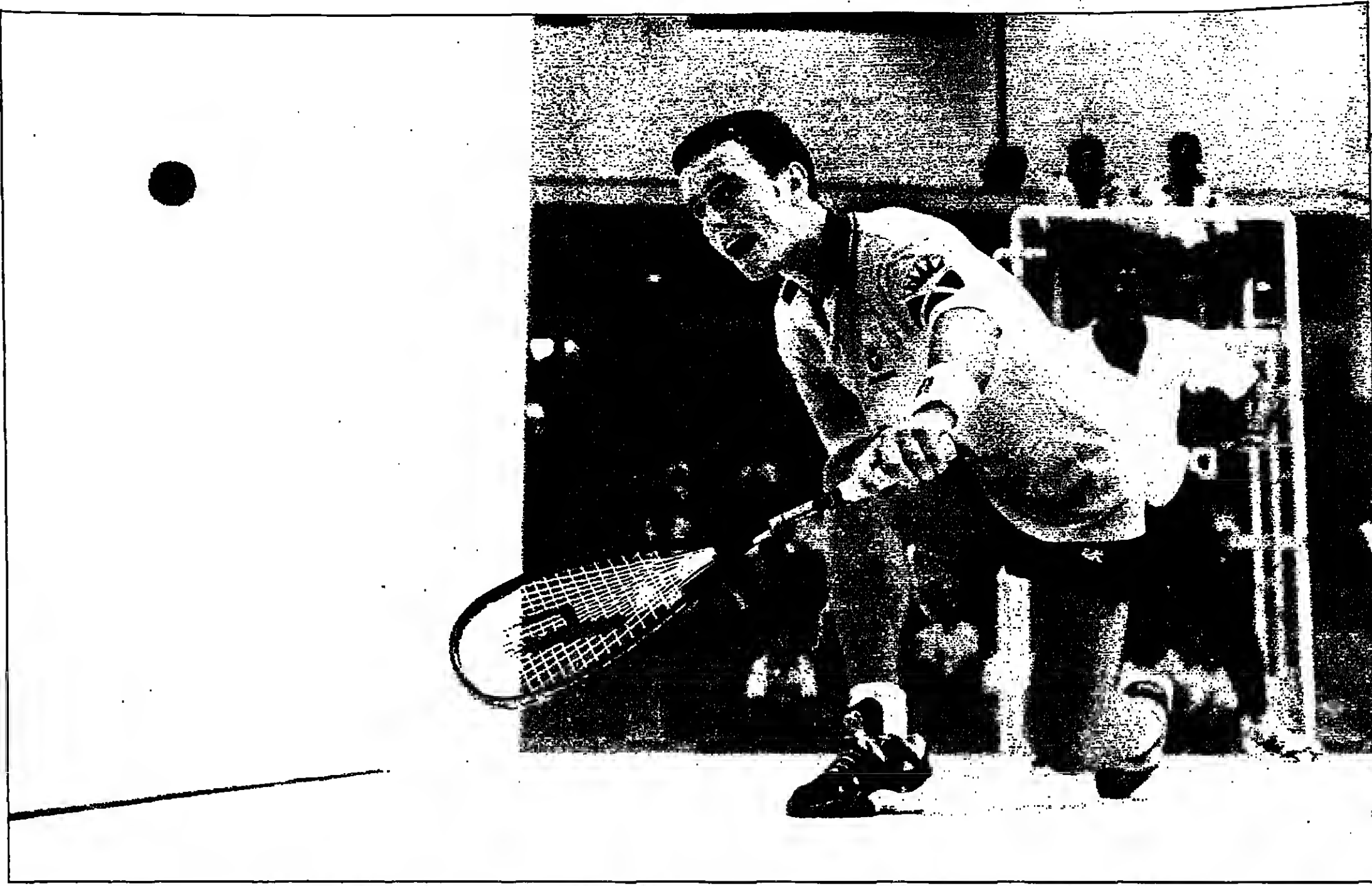
There remains now one last, solitary piece of the jigsaw to complete. The world title. If Nicol can continue his blistering run of form, then it is his. It would round off Nicol's *omnis mirabilis*.

Yet one, final, doubt remains. He should have won the world title last year, but instead fell to Australia's Rodney Eyles in the final.

"People assume I am the world champion," he said with a wry smile. "I have to tell them that, although I am the world No 1, I am not actually the champion. Eyles was hungrier than me last year."

With Jansher withdrawing through injury, he saw it as his big, and possibly last, chance and he took it. It taught me a great lesson.

Which was what? "It showed me the proper way to prepare mentally for a major tournament. It made me understand that you have to be extra focussed for a major, and that,



Peter Nicol on his way to a Commonwealth Games gold medal this summer. This year he has also moved up to No 1 in the world rankings and won the British Open and five other titles

Allsport

however talented a player you may be, you have to want the title more than anyone else.

"Everything about playing in a major is harder, and the defeat made me understand the importance of the tournament, and the pressures that come with it. I didn't play particularly badly that week, nor in the final. But Eyles was amazing. He'd played poorly prior to the tournament but played great when it really mattered."

As any sporting achiever will tell you, failure, however relative it may be, provides a great education. Nicol duly went on to beat Jansher Khan in the British Open final last Spring to notch up the first of what is promising to be a vast collection of major titles.

"The lessons I learned from the world final defeat meant that I entered the British Open with a totally different mind-set. I was completely focused."

More success followed as Nicol set to work cementing his new-found status at the top of the world pile.

Most of his achievements were for himself, the benefits reaped from a brave decision seven years ago to leave his Aberdeen home and venture down to the bright lights of London to join the coach, Neil Harvey, at Chingford's Connaught Club, where an all-out campaign began to produce the player he is today.

Yet winning the inaugural squash gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala

Lumpur was something very different. "It was huge," was how Nicol first put it. "Scotland only won three golds, and I was very privileged to be the first winner for my country. Some-

body man, proved to be the icing on the 25-year-old's cake. "I was so happy to have beaten him that it was all I could think of in the initial seconds after winning. Then I remember the final of the Heliopolis Open in Cairo. It sets the Scot up nicely for his final assault of the year. But what really makes Nicol the firm favourite to become world champion is his state of mind.

By his own admission, he felt uncomfortable at first with his new world ranking. "Jansher had been around for so long that I felt like an imposter," he admitted.

"Winning the British Open definitely helped me to relax. After losing both the British and World finals last year, it was obviously time for me to start winning a major title.

"I've only just started to feel comfortable about being the world No 1. Jansher was such a legend that it has taken a long

time to shake off his No 1 image. But he seems to be gone now, and the gap between me and the rest is growing by the week. I'm winning more and more tournaments, and there doesn't seem to be a great challenge, or at least not a lasting one, from anyone."

Really? "I think it must be pretty demoralising for some of the other players," Nicol continued. "They'd all waited for Jansher to go. I remember last year when Jansher withdrew from tournaments. Suddenly 10 or so players believed they stood a chance of winning. Incredibly, for squash, we all told each other this.

"Now I've suddenly accelerated away, and I intend fully to enjoy my own dominant patch.

I'm not saying I'm going to emulate Jansher. That would be practically impossible. But I don't see why I can't have it my way for the next four years."

Nicol does not see why he should not become the world champion this week, either. "I'm better equipped to win it than I was last year, that's for sure," he confirmed, with a confident nod of his head. "I'm more aware, and I'm a great deal hungrier."

There is one, final reason why he believes he will place that final piece in his sporting jigsaw. "Jansher Khan ruled the squash world for a decade," he announces, as he trots off for yet more practice on the court. "That was his time. I think now it's my time."

Cor-blimey reflections of a diamond geezer

Harry Redknapp
My Autobiography
With Derek McGovern
Harper Collins, £12.99 (hardback)

THIS NEWSPAPER'S diarist, Pandora, speculated last week that Harry Redknapp had been offered the vacant manager's post at Blackburn, sweetened by a sizable increase in salary. It had, after all, been a bad week for the West Ham manager, fuming from the sale of Andy Linney to Leicester City without his knowledge. His mood would not have been improved by having publicly to gulp down a barbed wire after venting his fury at the board.

BOOK OF
THE WEEK

That Harry did not return Pandora's calls was probably because he thought some foreign agent was trying to offload another dodgy Romanian, and he has had more than enough experience of being kicked in the Balkans.

There is not much that Redknapp has not experienced in his years of playing and managing. But the torrid days of West Ham United Nations - a ramshackle collection of knock-down journeymen from all des-

tinations east and west of Dagenham - are long gone.

In short, Harry is different class and West Ham, these days, are different class too thanks to his endeavours. Which, in Harry's diamond geezer lexicon - captured expertly by ghostwriter Derek McGovern - is praise indeed. But while Redknapp can be proud of his achievements in elevating the Hammers to Premiership respectability, his career path in the most transient of trades has not so much been rocky as often dug up and diverted into a dead end.

It is the stuff of rich memoirs,

ripe with anecdote and leavened with wry humour. A playing career that began alongside the World Cup legends of Hurst, Peters and Moore at Upton Park was diverted to Bournemouth via a spell in Seattle and a sting in Phoenix. A traffic accident in 1980 claimed the life of his friend, Brian Tyler, and left Redknapp for dead on an Italian roadside. Football as life and death: Harry has first-hand experience.

Such vagaries of fortune would temper most souls' passion for the game, but not Redknapp's. Anyone who has witnessed his agonising touch-

line twitchery that borders on the epileptic in moments of stress is familiar with a man unable to watch a match with calm detachment.

Redknapp's honesty means that this book would never have been a dull read. He does not so much wear his heart on his sleeve as thrust it pulsing into the reader's face.

Tales abound of Romanians who would rather shop than play, of his feeling the pressure so intensely that he was unable to turn his head to reverse the car out of the garage, of bust-ups with players and fellow managers - the rollercoaster

ride of life among the game's elite managers. Not that Redknapp is complaining, and he appears able to retain his corblimey affability throughout the most testing times.

Redknapp acknowledges that by succeeding Billy Bonds as West Ham manager in 1994 it cost him a precious friendship. It is the sort of poignant admission that is rarely a part of footballing hagiography and, while this book will never be a contender for one of those fancy-dan sports book awards, it provides a vivid picture of Harry's game.

Andrew Martin

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
 - 2 European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95).
 - 3 Back Home: How the World Watched France 98 (WSC Books, paperback, £9.99).
 - 4 The Carling Ultimate Football Guide 1999, edited by Mike Williams (Sky Blue Publications, paperback, £14.95).
 - 5 My Autobiography, Harry Redknapp with Derek McGovern (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
 - 6 Shark Among Dolphins, Steve Hubbard (Ballantine Books, paperback, £5.50).
 - 7 The New Ball: The Best in New Cricket Writing Vol 1, edited by Rob Steen (Two Head, paperback, £9.99).
 - 8 Unbeatable: The Historic Season of the 1998 New York Yankees, George King (HarperSports, paperback, £5.50).
 - 9 An Arm and Four Legs, Stan Hey (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £15.00).
 - 10 TD, Terrell Davis with Adam Scheffer (Harper Collins, hardback, £19.95).
- Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 340 9604), St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530) and at www.sportspages.co.uk

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مكتبة العصر

Corretja calm leaves Moya out of pocket

DREAMS and schemes pervaded the ATP Tour Championship, which was won dramatically by Alex Corretja of Spain, yesterday. There was, for instance, the notion that Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski would compete in a year-end finale in the London Millennium Dome.

That seed was sown by the promoter Ian Triaac, who said he had floated the idea with Bernie Ecclestone, who is keen to extend his Formula One licence to tennis. "I spoke to Mr Ecclestone two days ago and told him if he makes a bid and can find the hall, I will stage the event for him," Triaac said.

Perhaps, but a humble building in Spain commanded more attention yesterday after Corretja recovered from two sets down and 1-3 in the fifth set to overcome his compatriot Carlos Moya, 3-6, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-5, after four hours.

Centro Alto Rendimiento (CAR), in San Cugat del Valles, close to Barcelona, houses the only permanent indoor tennis court in Spain. It is also marked out for basketball, volleyball and handball, and the walls have bars for gymnastics.

It was there that Corretja, Moya, and the legion of other Spanish players who have made their presence felt, learned to adapt their expertise on slow clay courts and medium-paced outdoor hard courts

TENNIS

By JOHN ROBERTS
in Hanover

to the faster indoor courts that were alien to them.

Corretja and Moya spent much of the week training at the CAR Club before arriving at the Expo 2000 Tennis Dome in Hanover to shock the finest attacking players in the

Open final on the clay of Paris, Moya winning in straight sets. It seemed there would be a similar outcome after the first two sets yesterday, but Corretja's heart matched his skill. He refused to buckle even when broken after creating his first match point at 5-4 in the final set. Moya showed his frustration during that game, hurling his racket into Corretja's court after narrowly missing a break point at 30-40.

Corretja stayed calm. He broke for 6-5, and then fired Moya into hitting a forehand long on the second match point. "I remembered Ivan Lendl coming back from two sets down to beat John McEnroe in the French Open final in 1984," Corretja said. "I told myself, if my idol can do it, so can I."

Whether or not Henman and Rusedski actually play at Greenwiche, many hope they can prolong the success they have brought to the British game. Henman, a semi-finalist at Wimbledon, and here in Hanover, ends the year ranked a career high No 7 in the world. Rusedski finishes at No 9, even though his Wimbledon campaign was wrecked by injury.

It is the first time since ATP computer rankings were introduced in 1978 that two British players have finished a year in the top 10.

In terms of the season's prize money, Henman won



Alex Corretja of Spain powers his way to the ATP Tour Championship

\$1,448,771 (£905,481). Rusedski \$1,460,437 (£912,773).

Henman was unable to capitalise on a 1-0 lead against Moya on Saturday, the Spaniard's service returns, particularly the forehand down the line, edging a stirring contest, 6-4, 6-6, 7-5.

Any sense of anti-climax was soon replaced by the counting of blessings. Three years ago, the suggestion of a British player

qualifying for an event between the world's top eight players would have been

ridiculous.

Rusedski made the grade in 1997 and Henman this time. Both have also made memorable appearances as substitutes.

Set against the boom in Spain, however, Britain is a two-man show. Chris Wilkinson, the closest play to Henman

and Rusedski, is ranked No 181.

To round off a memorable weekend in Hanover, there was evidence of a reconciliation between the ATP Tour and the International Tennis Federation.

The first benefit promised yesterday is the possibility of Davis Cup ties and Olympic Games participation going towards the year-long rankings, starting in 2000.

Spanish surge sinks England

BASKETBALL

By RICHARD TAYLOR

England have three games left in the return fixtures in the group which began last season.

After losing three games out of seven, they will have to win in the Ukraine on Wednesday and then beat Israel and Belarus in February to have any chance of qualifying automatically for the finals from the top two positions.

Thousands of Bosnians celebrated after their national team beat Croatia in a European championship qualifier. Traffic in downtown Sarajevo came to a standstill after the unexpected 67-64 victory boosted Bosnia's chances of reaching the championships.

Davidson cashes in chips to catch Fisher

SNOOKER

TESSA DAVIDSON broke Kelly Fisher's stranglehold on women's snooker by winning the UK Championship at Bournemouth yesterday.

A 4-1 victory for the 29-year-old from Banbury prevented Fisher, the world No 1 and world champion, from winning her fourth tournament in a row.

"I am just pleased to play well with a trophy on the line because I haven't been doing myself justice in finals," said Davidson, who is now sure to improve on her current position of No 12 in the world rankings.

Davidson, who runs a mobile fish and chip shop with her husband, retired from the game for a time but since her return she has been runner-up in both

SNOOKER

the Regal Welsh Open and Regal Women's Masters.

After losing the opening frame to Fisher, Davidson, assisted by a 54 break - the highest of the match - moved into a 2-1 lead. Davidson crucially snatched the fourth frame with a green-to-black clearance before completing her surprise victory by edging a tense 35-minute fifth frame on the blue.

In the semi-finals, Davidson had squeezed through 4-3 after the world No 2, Karen Karan, went in off the black in the deciding frame.

The world No 3, Lisa Quick, from Weston-Super-Mare, built the highest break of the championship, 98, in the last 16.

ATHLETICS

NINE INTERNATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY (Chesham-le-Stroud) mixed 6-9km: 1 Gachara (Ken) 21min 46sec; 2 M. Mayo (Ken) 21:48; 3 D. O'Donnell (Ire) 22:11; 4 K. Rasmussen (Nor) 22:20; 5 S. Tromans (Cov) 22:24; 6 C. Robinson (Ire) 22:33; 7 R. Quinn (Ireland) 22:34; 8 A. Hargrave (Longwood) 22:36; 9 D. Almy (Ken) 22:40; 10 A. Almy (Ken) 22:54; 11 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 22:59; 12 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:00; 13 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:01; 14 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:02; 15 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:03; 16 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:04; 17 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:05; 18 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:06; 19 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:07; 20 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:08.

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ATHLETICS

NINE INTERNATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY (Chesham-le-Stroud) mixed 6-9km: 1 Gachara (Ken) 21min 46sec; 2 M. Mayo (Ken) 21:48; 3 D. O'Donnell (Ire) 22:11; 4 K. Rasmussen (Nor) 22:20; 5 S. Tromans (Cov) 22:24; 6 C. Robinson (Ire) 22:33; 7 R. Quinn (Ireland) 22:34; 8 A. Hargrave (Longwood) 22:36; 9 D. Almy (Ken) 22:40; 10 A. Almy (Ken) 22:54; 11 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 22:59; 12 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:00; 13 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:01; 14 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:02; 15 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:03; 16 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:04; 17 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:05; 18 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:06; 19 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:07; 20 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 23:08.

1000m (Ken) 20:53; 2 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:54; 3 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:55; 4 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:56; 5 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:57; 6 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:58; 7 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 20:59; 8 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:00; 9 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:01; 10 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:02; 11 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:03; 12 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:04; 13 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:05; 14 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:06; 15 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:07; 16 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:08; 17 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:09; 18 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:10; 19 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:11; 20 S. L. Mayo (Ken) 11:12.

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Plucky Briton holds on

NOT EVEN a tropical rainstorm could dampen the celebrations as Ellen MacArthur successfully negotiated a trying final lap to win Class II of the Route du Rhum in her 50-footer Kingfisher on Saturday. The British 37-year-old had to scrape and crawl her way through mirroring conditions to the island of Guadeloupe in a nerve-racking final 20 miles to the finish.

The light air conditions, which have dogged her the last few days, were causing tension and anxiety as the course took her to within 100 yards of the coast. There she had to execute a spinners manoeuvre to avoid running aground. "It was one of those moments when things had to happen, had to work, and they did," she said after crossing the finish at Pointe-a-Pitre.

MacArthur's victory is remarkable because it is her first major single-handed race in a big boat, beating the more experienced French at their own game. She took over Kingfisher only days before the start in

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

St Malo three weeks previously and the first five days of the 4,000-mile Atlantic crossing saw her and the fleet "hammered by big winds and seas. It was horrendous. I was bashed all over and badly bruised."

After some respite, during which she gradually pulled out a lead on the competition, an even more vicious weather pattern hit her and it was at that time that the hydraulic system which controls her swinging keel ruptured. It took her 25 hours, wearing a survival suit in the then tropical heat, to stop it swinging out of control from side to side and make it work again.

In Class I, the 60-foot monohull race was won by Thomas Coville, with Jean-Luc van den Heede second and Raphael Dinelli, the man rescued in the Southern Ocean nearly a year ago by Pete Goss in the same boat, MacArthur is now racing third.



Ellen MacArthur lights a victory beacon as she arrives in Guadeloupe

Coach slates 'whingers'

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

DAVID MATHEWS scored twice for Canterbury as they overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Southgate 3-2. In an exciting game Southgate started convincingly and within 18 minutes were leading 2-0 following a penalty corner goal from their Australian captain, Todd Williams, and a well taken goal from John Shaw.

But the game hinged on the temporary suspension of Williams in the 51st minute, which may have been a case of mistaken identity, and the arrival of Sean Kerly as a Canterbury substitute. After Mathews had pulled a goal back, Mark Hollingsworth equalised for Canterbury and then Mathews scored the win-

ner with a powerful drag penalty corner shot, the last two goals coming while Williams was sidelined.

Southgate's Australian coach, Neil Hawgood, had little sympathy for his team afterwards: "They are a lot of whingers. You will never change an umpire's decision. You just have to accept it and get on with the game," he said.

Cannock came from behind at East Grinstead to win 3-2 and take over second place with Beeston moving to fourth behind Southgate after their 5-2 win against Brooklands.

Dharminder Singh scored a hat-trick as Barford Tigers beat Sheffield 5-1 to take over the First Division leadership after Barford were beaten 4-3 by Indian Gymkhana. Mark Wood scored all five goals as Doncaster beat Havant 5-2 to move up to second.

In the women's Premier, Slough reduced the gap behind Ipswich to three points at the top following their 3-0 win against Doncaster.

England, having won their disciplinary hearing last week in Brussels, have been included in the six teams for next year's Champions Trophy in Brisbane, where they will line up against the Netherlands, Pakistan, Australia, Korea and Spain.

Sunderland in form to progress

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

SUNDERLAND, WHO continued their domination of the First Division with a 4-0 defeat of Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on Saturday, should make short work of Second Division Luton in their Worthington Cup quarter-final at the Stadium of Light tomorrow.

Luton, held 1-1 by Manchester City at home on Saturday, have done well to get this far, but look out of their depth against Peter Reid's men, who seem bound for the Premiership.

Wimbledon, although sent packing 3-1 by Newcastle on Saturday, could hold Chelsea to a draw in 90 minutes at Selhurst Park. The Dons always put up a fight and need the Uefa Cup place this tournament

offers much more than Gianluca Vialli's men, who are flying high in the League despite being held 1-1 by Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

Leicester, tipped here to win the tournament at 14-1 and not disgraced in gaining a point against Coventry on Saturday, ought to overwhelm Blackburn at home on Wednesday.

Tottenham can hold Manchester United to a draw in 90 minutes at White Hart Lane. George Graham's men, with no European Cup to distract them, are likely to hold the edge in the up-for-it department.

WORTHINGTON CUP										
Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Wed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Utd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Wed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Utd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Wed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Utd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Sheff Wed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sheff Utd	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

WORCESTER

12.45 DIRTY DOZEN (nap) 1.15 Gratoni 1.45 Silk Vestments 2.15 Marlborough 2.45 Never In Debt 3.15 Grosvenor 3.45 Forest Thyme

GOING: Heavy.
Left-hand course, level with long straight, easy turns and a one furlong run-in.
Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate) station, 10. ADAMSIDE, 10.10. TOTTENHAM, 10.15. TOTTENHAM, 10.20. TOTTENHAM, 10.25. TOTTENHAM, 10.30. TOTTENHAM, 10.35. TOTTENHAM, 10.40. TOTTENHAM, 10.45. TOTTENHAM, 10.50. TOTTENHAM, 10.55. TOTTENHAM, 11.00. TOTTENHAM, 11.05. TOTTENHAM, 11.10. TOTTENHAM, 11.15. TOTTENHAM, 11.20. TOTTENHAM, 11.25. TOTTENHAM, 11.30. TOTTENHAM, 11.35. TOTTENHAM, 11.40. TOTTENHAM, 11.45. TOTTENHAM, 11.50. TOTTENHAM, 11.55. TOTTENHAM, 12.00. TOTTENHAM, 12.05. TOTTENHAM, 12.10. TOTTENHAM, 12.15. TOTTENHAM, 12.20. TOTTENHAM, 12.25. TOTTENHAM, 12.30. TOTTENHAM, 12.35. TOTTENHAM, 12.40. TOTTENHAM, 12.45. TOTTENHAM, 12.50. TOTTENHAM, 12.55. TOTTENHAM, 13.00. TOTTENHAM, 13.05. TOTTENHAM, 13.10. TOTTENHAM, 13.15. TOTTENHAM, 13.20. TOTTENHAM, 13.25. TOTTENHAM, 13.30. TOTTENHAM, 13.35. TOTTENHAM, 13.40. TOTTENHAM, 13.45. TOTTENHAM, 13.50. TOTTENHAM, 13.55. TOTTENHAM, 14.00. TOTTENHAM, 14.05. TOTTENHAM, 14.10. TOTTENHAM, 14.15. TOTTENHAM, 14.20. 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Scottish League Cup final: Ibrox's new Dutch coach is given his first taste of success

Rangers stutter to tense victory

RANGERS DELIVERED for their supporters the first trophy of the season, giving Dick Advocaat a winning start to his coaching reign. However, the Ibrox side were made to work hard for their League Cup win by a St Johnstone team that made a much better fist of things than in the recent 7-0 defeat to yesterday's opponents.

Like Wim Jansen at Celtic last season, Advocaat, a new-comer to the Scottish game, has led his side to early success and, while the League title is a trophy the fans want most to see at Ibrox, this win will cheer them as they enter the winter following a barren season.

Rangers goals had a European flavour to them with Stephane Guivarch, the Frenchman, and Jörg Albertz, the German, delivering the finishes to fine moves. As early as the sixth minute Rangers were ahead. Sergio Porrini played the ball down the line to Andrei Kanchelskis, whose pace took him away from Gary Bolland. The cut back from the Ukrainian was perfect. Guivarch's header was within a minute they were level.

A Paul Kane free-kick was headed on by Alan Kernaghan to Nick Dasovic, who fired the ball into the top corner. It was a fine strike from the Canadian

BY DAVID MCKINNEY
at Celtic Park

Rangers 2
St Johnstone 1

an and one which lifted the hearts of the Perth men.

Phillip Scott then fired a long range shot which held little danger for Anti Niemi, the Rangers goalkeeper, but gradually the game shifted towards the St Johnstone goal, as Sandy Clark's men began to sit in looking for an escape route through George O'Boyle and Miguel Simao.

Kanchelskis found space to operate on the right and the strong-running Arthur Numan performed well on the left, making it seem inevitable another goal would come.

It duly arrived in the 36th minute. A through ball was left by Albertz, who turned and accepted a pass from Guivarch before driving his shot into the bottom corner. The move leading up to the goal once again demonstrated the fluid nature of Rangers' play since Advocaat arrived. Although his side operated a 4-4-2 formation, his players had freedom to move and to express themselves. The end result is a team and particularly a strike force which is difficult to mark.

St Johnstone rallied in the second half, particularly with Kane and Scott beginning to dictate play although their forwards found it difficult to find space.

Rod Wallace had two shots charged down in the 61st minute and Giovanni van



St Johnstone's Gary Bolland (left) challenges Rangers' Rod Wallace in yesterday's League Cup final

Bronckhorst shot wide from long range as Rangers began to operate more on the flank. They came close to a third goal with 10 minutes remaining when a short corner was played to the unmarked Kanchelskis whose powerful drive from 18 yards was acrobatically pushed over by Niemi.

Darren Dods had a final and forlorn chance for St Johnstone, who had to accept once again defeat in a Cup competition. The Perth club has never

won a major trophy in its 114-year history and, although the supporters would have enjoyed the day out, they would have enjoyed it a lot more had they been an end result.

Rangers will take this result into the next part of their season with both the League and the UEFA Cup in mind and although there is no European reward at the end these days for the League Cup winners, the win will give them a huge lift. Advocaat said: "I felt no pres-

sure to win. I don't know why. Walter Smith did a great job for Rangers, but that is the past, and it's not counting any more. "We had problems building up from the back and giving the ball away early on, but then it was a real Cup game with not many chances for either team. This is an important win for us that hopefully will have a positive effect. I was never really concerned and we are still involved in all the other competitions."

Clark said: "I felt in the second-half we came right back into it and I believe we have now laid the 7-0 game to rest and showed that on a level playing field we can compete."

Goals: Guivarch (6) 1-0; Dasovic (7) 1-1; Albertz (36) 2-1.
Rangers (4-4-2): Niemi; Porrini, Amoroso, Hendry, Numan; Kanchelskis, B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz (1 Ferguson, 64); Guivarch (Duns, 88), Wallace. Substitutes not used: Vitor, St Johnstone (4-4-2): Main, McCulligan, Dods, Kernaghan, Bolland, Scott, Dasovic, Kane, O'Neill (Preston, 88); O'Boyle (Lowndes, 73), Simao (Grant, 85).
Referee: H Dallas (Motherwell).
Bookings: St Johnstone: Dasovic.
Man of the match: Dasovic.
Attendance: 45,533.

Parma too potent for sad Milan

EUROPEAN
ROUND-UP

BY RUPERT METCALF

HERNAN CRESPO, the Argentinian World Cup striker, scored twice as Parma put their Italian Serie A title challenge back on track with a 4-0 home win over Milan yesterday.

The champions, Juventus, slumped to a surprise 3-0 defeat at in-form Bologna while the league leaders, Fiorentina, endured a 0-0 stalemate at Bari - their first draw of the season.

At the Tardini stadium Enrico Chiesa made amends for an early miss to put Parma ahead in the 15th minute, turning home the loose ball after Sebastiano Rossi had failed to hold Dino Baggio's fierce shot from outside the area.

Within 11 minutes, Milan were 2-0 down as Crespo touched the ball over the advancing Rossi, and Crespo struck again 14 minutes after the break, a downward header punishing some slack defending. Alain Boghossian, the French World Cup midfielder, completed Milan's humiliation in stoppage time with his first goal since joining Parma from Sampdoria in the summer.

Juventus struggled from the start at Bologna's Dall'Ara stadium. Michele Paramatti was left unmarked in the third minute to head home Giuseppe Signori's free-kick. Five minutes later, the Croat Igor Tudor failed to clear Kenneth Anderson's header and the rejuvenated Signori pounced to claim his fifth goal of the season.

Juve's nightmare start was completed in the 28th minute by Davide Fontolan, who first robbed Ciro Ferrara on the halfway line before exchanging passes with Anderson, dribbling round Mark Iuliano and beating the goalkeeper with a neatly placed shot.

After the break, Francesco Antonioli saved brilliantly from Filippo Inzaghi on two occasions as Bologna celebrated their first home success over Juve in 24 years. They are also unbeaten in 16 league and cup matches, while Juventus who are without a win in any competition since losing their top

striker Alessandro Del Piero with ligament damage.

Internazionale scored twice in the last 15 minutes to defeat Salernitana 2-1. David di Michele had given the lowly visitors a deserved half-time lead before the Argentinian pair Diego Simeone and Javier Zanetti saved Inter with goals in the 76th and 90th minutes.

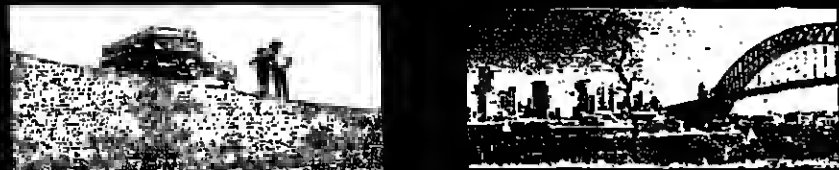
In Spain, Atletico Madrid spoiled the Barcelona party on Saturday as they battled their way to a 1-0 Spanish League victory on the night the Catalan club kicked off their centenary year celebrations.

A Vladimir Jovic penalty six minutes before half-time proved enough to give Atletico their first away victory of the season and leave Barca fans voicing their dismay on an emotional night for the club, which was founded in 1899.

Celta Vigo, Liverpool's UEFA Cup opponents, were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Valencia. The Galicians had looked set for victory as they recovered from Roman's Gabriel Popescu's 23rd minute opener with goals either side of half-time from Alexander Mostovoi and Juan Sanchez. But a superb strike from another Romanian international, Adrian Ilie, who blasted in from the edge of the area, secured a point for the visitors.

A header by Savo Milosevic, the former Aston Villa forward, after six minutes proved enough to give Real Zaragoza a 1-0 win at home to Ovado. In Germany, a Tony Yeboah hat-trick put an end to Hamburg's indifferent run of six games without a win. The former Leeds United striker was the star of Hamburg's 3-0 victory over struggling Borussia Mönchengladbach. The Bundesliga leaders, Bayern Munich, cruised to a 2-0 home win over Nuremberg with goals by Giovanni Elber and Bhenke Lizarazu.

WIN AN EVENING WITH SOME OF YOUR SPORTING HEROES AND A TRIP TO THE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPIC GAMES.



The Independent and the Australian Tourist Commission together with SportsWorld, the British Olympic Association appointed tour operator and Qantas Airways, have teamed up to offer one lucky reader and a friend or partner the chance not only to dine with some of Britain's most famous sporting heroes at the Sports Writers Dinner at the London Hilton on Monday 14th December, but also the opportunity to fly to Sydney and visit the 2000 Olympic Games.

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are set to generate unprecedented levels of interest, as the world's greatest athletes congregate for the Millennium Games, against the wonderful backdrop of Sydney and the delights of Australia. Almost more than anything else, Australians are famous for their obsession with sport. The continent has established its reputation as a leading sporting nation, its little wonder therefore that Australia is host to some of the world's most prestigious sporting events. So with the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games around the corner, there's never been a better time to head Down Under. Qantas have kindly provided the winner with two return tickets to Sydney. Qantas are Australia's international airline and have, for nearly 80 years, been at the forefront of providing new and better ways to take you safely and comfortably to your destination.

The Independent have selected 6 sporting personalities from those previously honoured over the past 50 years - all you have to do is vote for one of the athletes who in your opinion has contributed the most to their sport. Phone the number opposite the name listed below and tell us on the line the reason for your selection and leave your name, full address and a daytime telephone number. You could be the lucky winner who receives a pair of tickets to the Sports Writers Dinner and your trip to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, courtesy of SportsWorld, who are providing six nights stay in Sydney, which includes a visit to a track event and a field event at the Millennium Olympics.

The Independent selections are as follows:

- 1) SIR BOBBY CHARLTON: Key member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team who has become a great sports ambassador. 0901 477 7331
- 2) LINFORD CHRISTIE: Britain's greatest ever sprinter. He won world, European and Olympic titles. 0901 477 7332
- 3) SEBASTIAN COE: Record-breaking middle-distance runner who won gold at 1980 and 1984 Olympics. 0901 477 7333
- 4) MARY RAND: Won gold in the long jump, silver in the pentathlon and bronze in the relay in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964. 0901 477 7334
- 5) STEVE REDGRAVE: Has won 4 Olympic rowing gold medals. Who would bet against number five in Sydney. 0901 477 7335
- 6) VIRGINIA WADE: Won Wimbledon in the Queen's Silver Jubilee year 1977 to take a place in tennis folklore. 0901 477 7336

Terms and Conditions.
1) £250 cash prize per line and should last no longer than two minutes. 2) Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 6 December 1998. 3) Tickets are not transferable there are no substitute prizes or cash alternatives. 4) Normal Independent rules apply. 5) The Editors' decision is final. 6) All entrants must be aged 18 or over and have a valid passport and visa to travel. 7) Open to residents of the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Channel Islands, excluding employees of Independent Newspapers, Qantas Airways or SportsWorld Group PLC, their families, close associates or any other persons directly connected with the administration of this competition. 8) On entering this competition, entrants are deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by the competition rules. Entry instructions form part of the rules. 9) The prize consists of 2 economy class tickets London-Sydney, London. The prize winner and their partner must travel together for the whole journey. Insurance is not included but must be provided for all flights. 10) Tickets to Sydney are subject to availability. Once booked, no changes to be made without the consent of Qantas and without payment of the relevant costs. 11) All flights must be taken during September 2000 inclusive. 12) Flights are subject to Qantas's Terms and Conditions of carriage and availability. 13) Entry to the date, accommodation and event tickets to be subject to final agreement between SportsWorld and prize winners.

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Kilbane deals the killer blow

FOOTBALL CAN be a perverse game. Just as the appointment of a caretaker manager has had a typically galvanising effect on Wolverhampton Wanderers, so the confirmation of job security after four unbeaten games brought Colin Lee his first defeat in charge of the Molineux club.

Even with Lee Hughes, the country's leading goalscorer, failing to break his derby duck - the 22-goal striker has yet to score against Wolves, Birmingham or Aston Villa - West Bromwich Albion were able to claim a third successive victory over their nearest rivals thanks to two second-half goals.

The first, a fulminating 20-yard drive into the top corner from Kevin Kilbane, was a brilliant goal and that inspired Albion to manage a first clean sheet in seven games. Shaun Murphy's close-range finish

BY MARK PIERSON

West Bromwich Albion 2
Wolverhampton Wanderers 0

guaranteed the victory that took Denis Smith's team to within two points of Wolverhampton in the chasing pack behind the First Division front-runners.

"At half-time the gaffer had a little bit of a pop at me, saying I had to get myself going," Kilbane, the Northern Ireland winger, said. "So I was just delighted to strike that one well and I enjoyed the second half."

Wolves did not share his enjoyment. With the news of Lee's appointment as manager until the end of the season still less than 24 hours old, his players looked set in the first period to continue whence they left off after the emotive comeback

against Birmingham seven days earlier.

In the first period Wolves broke through the defence almost at will. Guy Whittingham's volley was headed off the line by Jason Van Blerk while five minutes before the interval Paul Holmes cleared David Connolly's shot off the line after Simon Osborn's defence-splitting pass.

But immediately after the break Keith Curle, who last year scored the own goal here that won Albion the day, fouled Hughes just outside the penalty area.

After Mario Bertolazzi back-heeled the free-kick into his path, Kilbane sent a powerful rising drive past Mike Stowell. The Wolves goalkeeper felt he had been impeded from Bertolazzi's 61st-minute corner but Murphy was in no mood to await any decision as he

shinned the ball home from close range.

"Although we didn't play particularly well in the first half, in a local derby like this the result is all that matters," said Smith, the Albion manager.

Lee said: "In any game the only thing that counts is the result."

"We've lost three points this afternoon, albeit against a team every single person in Wolverhampton wants to beat. Every single game we enter into we want to win."

Goals: Kilbane (46) 1-0; Murphy (61) 2-0.
West Bromwich Albion: Miller, Holmes, Murphy, Carlton, Van Blerk, Gurney (Sheehy, 77), Flynn, Bertolazzi, Kilbane, Evans (De Freitas, 71), Hughes. Substitutes not used: Angel.
Wolverhampton Wanderers: Stowell, Richards, Curle, Sedgley, Muncy, Robinson (Weston, 63), Osborn, Naylor, Connolly, Whittingham, Keane (Cochran, 63). Substitutes not used: Embley.
Referee: G. Laws (Whitby Bay).
Bookings: West Bromwich: Shaun Murphy, Kevin Kilbane.
Man of the match: Kilbane.
Attendance: 22,682.

Curcic gives Palace added edge

TERRY VENABLES has become quite used to dealing with footballing enigmas during his managerial career - and most conspicuous among those was Paul Gascoigne. When Venable was in charge of England he coaxed the best out of the Georgie and at Euro 96, when many questioned his right to be in the side, Gascoigne scored one of the goals of the tournament against Scotland.

Now it seems Venable, at a less exalted level with Crystal Palace, has got his hands full again, but this time it is with Sasa Curcic. The Yugoslav midfielder, signed from Aston Villa last season, was given barely half an hour to show his worth, but it was enough to rattle Watford and bring Palace their equaliser. With 16 minutes left he dribbled into the penalty area, was tripped by Darren Bazeley and converted the spot-kick himself. It was a decision disputed afterwards by Watford's assistant manager, Kenny Jackett, but which Venable, who has seen similar decisions go against Palace recently, naturally went along with.

Yet Curcic's cameo role, when they found themselves 2-0 up. Believing that Nick Wright's header from 10 yards out and Peter Kennedy's far post tap-in were enough, they failed to push for a third to kill the game off. Instead they defended deeply and David Tuttle pulled one back before Curcic's penalty, which cost them two precious points in the quest for automatic promotion to the Premiership.

However Jackett, who is managing the team while Taylor recovers from a throat operation that is likely to keep him out of action until the New Year, has no doubts about where the team is heading and said: "The Premiership is a goal for all of us, not just Graham, and it will improve our careers."

But if Venable can get the best out of Curcic, as he did with Gascoigne, then he has a player who could propel Palace into the play-offs, which is where Watford are heading for at the very least.

The team managed by Graham Taylor, Venable's predecessor in the England job, are unbeaten in eight games and were only let .2 visitors match by a 1-1.

BY CONRAD LEACH

Crystal Palace 2
Watford 2

which featured several other dangerous forays around the Watford area as well as a vicious effort on goal from 20 yards that went just over the crossbar, is all it seems he will get at the moment under Venable, who is not prepared to include the 26-year-old for a whole game. And Venable hinted at darker goings-on behind the scenes, when he said afterwards: "It's between me and him why he's not playing 90 minutes. But he's happy and I know he frightens other teams with his skill. He is a very talented player."

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Oxford soar away from the Canaries

Norwich City 1
Oxford United 3

OXFORD UNITED continued their climb away from the First Division relegation zone with a deserved third win in succession at Carrow Road yesterday.

The Canaries, on an unbeaten run of seven matches before yesterday, looked well on their way to extending that run when they took the lead after only three minutes through Craig Bellamy.

Oxford equalised after 34 minutes with Brian Wilsterman's first goal in English football. The second came from Dean Windass from a few yards out, while Andy Thomson hit the third just after the interval.

Goals: Bellamy (3) 1-0; Wilsterman (34) 1-1; Windass (45) 1-2; Thomson (48) 1-3.
Norwich: A Marshall, Preston, Markie, Grant (Forbes, 62), Fleming, Jackson, J. Marshall, Adams. Substitutes not used: Murphy, O'Hall, O'Leary, Roberts, G. Hall.
Oxford: Lee, Hyndwood, Robinson, Mann, Gray, Wilsterman, Geddy, Murphy, Smith, Town, Parris, Miles, Foster, Lombardo, Fazio (Currie, 59), Tuttle, Bradbury, Morrison (Bent, 82). Substitutes not used: Thompson.
Watford (4-4-2): Chamberlain, Bazeley, Kennedy, Page, Palmer, Robinson, Smart (Mooney, 70), Hyde, Vinge, New-Williams (Ngongue, 64), Johnson. Substitutes not used: Gudmundsson.
Birmingham (3-5-2): Bennett (Rice).
Bookings: Crystal Palace: Moore, Foster, Lombardo, Westwood, Page, Robinson, Wright.
Man of the match: Currie.
Attendance: 19,521.

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 30 November 1998
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Milan

THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

United splash out to join the eco-warriors

ANOTHER MATCH, another 55,000 spectators through the Old Trafford gates and another sackful of money to be emptied into Manchester United's already overflowing coffers. Regardless of the result of yesterday's visit of Leeds, United emerged as winners in financial terms, as they do after every home game.

Now, with thousands more potential customers metaphorically queuing for the chance of a glimpse inside, United want to expand their "theatre of dreams", happily aware that the £30m they plan to spend on 12,400 extra seats will soon be recouped. And then they'll simply get richer still...

After the controversy over the proposed BSkyB takeover deal, United cannot wonder that they are perceived as blinkered money-grubbers without a care for anyone else's interests. However, this is not entirely a true picture.

Amid much less publicity, United last week agreed to spend £1m on a "good neighbour grant" to finance the extra cost of street cleaning, parking enforcement and residents-only parking schemes near the stadium on match days. They are also launching a scheme to encourage fans to use public transport, with park-and-ride facilities.

Cynics point out that the cost is less than a tenth of the fee they paid for Dwight Yorke and could almost be financed out of petty cash. But it represents the largest contribution any club has made to the environmental costs of staging football - and you cannot knock them for that.

Life after Villa for John's juniors

ASTON VILLA manager John Gregory, hailed for flying in the face of foreign fashion in the Premiership, is finding that to keep a squad of Englishmen happy is no easier than it is for others to maintain multi-cultural harmony elsewhere.

Like Manchester United, Villa have a production line of homegrown talent to underpin the future, but while youngsters such as Lee Hendrie and Gareth Barry have reached the senior ranks, others have found the frustration of waiting too much.

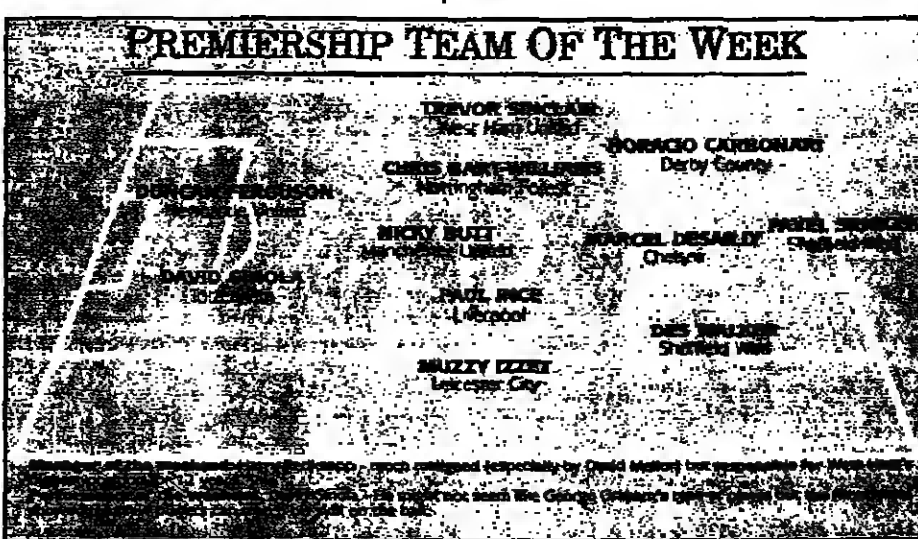
Defender Ben Petty, a Villa fan through and through, stepped into a personal dreamworld when the club took him on as a 17-year-old. Four years later, however, the dream has ended. He rose to the rank of reserve team captain but the senior side refused to beckon, and last week he left on a free transfer to join Stoke, making his debut at Wycombe on Saturday.

With Gareth Southgate, Ugo Ehiogu, Steve Staunton and Riccardo Scimeca ahead of him in the pecking order, Petty had to be patient. But when Barry was given the nod to replace the departing Staunton, he concluded reluctantly that he had waited long enough.

"It was a wrench to go," he said. "I wanted to give myself as long as possible to make it with Villa, but I am nearly 22 now and you cannot hang around forever."

KEY NUMBERS

- 1 Leicester's red-card count for the season, which may be reduced to 0 if referee Mike Riley agrees to rescind his dismissal of Frank Sinclair on Saturday.
- 17 Bristol City's goals-against total in four games since the Swedish coach Benny Lennartsson took charge.
- 18 Sheffield Wednesday players have been cautioned this season, the fewest for one team in the Premiership, despite Paolo di Canio's contribution.
- I TOLD YOU SO "If you get good crosses in, the chances are he'll get on the end of them." Keith Gillespie on Duncan Ferguson's arrival. It was his corner from which Newcastle's new striker scored on Saturday.



PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

Missing... making it... and mistaken

WILLIE BOLAND
COVENTRY CITY

OPPORTUNITIES HAVE been rare for the 23-year-old Irishman since Gordon Strachan reshaped Coventry's midfield with an influx of foreign talent. Boland, who joined the Sky Blues as a 17-year-old, started six matches last season but was regularly used as a substitute, but cannot even make the bench this season. Even so, he rejected a £200,000 move to Dundee United last week.

LEE HODGES
WEST HAM UNITED

AN ATTACKING midfielder with exceptional passing ability, the 20-year-old former England schoolboy international figured in five West Ham matches last season but has made only one further appearance. He has his admirers, however, among them Ipswich manager George Burley, who has taken him on loan and says: "He is a player with a lot of potential."

Fernando Gomes

KEEN TO emphasise how lean and fit he is, age-defying George Graham would take training sessions at Leeds wearing shorts. Now it appears he has gone a step further to prove his fitness, turning out for Wolves and claiming to be Spanish international Fernando Gomes.

George Graham

Ewood vacancy sparks scramble

THE GUESSING games over who will succeed Roy Hodgson at Ewood Park reveals a diversity of opinion among the Sunday gossip leaders. Top of the jaw-droppers is the *News of the World's* claim that Jack Walker has asked Alan Shearer to return to Ewood Park as player-manager, with the full backing of Tim Sherwood and Chris Sutton. The story says the England captain has been "positive".

The *Sunday Mirror*, however, says that West Ham's Harry Redknapp has emerged as a shock front-runner, not only because of his success in turning the Hammers from Premiership strugglers but European candidates but because the row over Andy Impey's transfer has left him unsure of his position.

The *People* says Jack Walker has discreetly sounded out Middlesbrough's Bryan Robson, impressed with the former England skipper's ability to attract star names to unfashionable Teesside. The *People* also quotes Italian sources as saying that Lazio's coach Sven Goran Eriksson, who turned Rovers down before Hodgson came, is again a contender.

The *Mail on Sunday* gives greater prominence to a story that Robbie Fowler has turned down a £35,000-a-week pay offer from Liverpool, opening the way for a possible £10m move to Arsenal.

Tottenham or abroad.

The *News of the World* says Aston Villa are lining up a £5m offer for Nottingham Forest's Steve Stone, and that Newcastle are set to spend £4m to lure the Paris St Germain midfielder Didier Donni to St James' Park.

The *Mail* says David Batty is prepared to leave £200,000 owed to him to leave Newcastle for Leeds, while the *People* names Philippe Albert as another likely departure, with Southampton ready to offer £1.5m.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: The Championship Cup is down in the top eight, with holders Chelsea facing a potential banana skin at Walsley. In the Premiership, Liverpool face a tough test at Wolves, while Manchester United look to secure a place in the top four. In the Football League, Arsenal face a tough test at Wolves, while Manchester United look to secure a place in the top four.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	Pl	Pts	GD	Home					Away					5-game form	Next meet on night	Upcoming matches
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
Aston Villa	14	29	+10	5	1	1	13	8	3	4	0	9	4	DWWD	5 Dec Man Utd (H); 13 Dec Arsenal (H); 21 Dec Charlton (A); 26 Dec Blackburn (A)	
Man Utd	14	28	+14	6	2	0	21	8	2	2	2	2	9	8	DWDLW	5 Dec Aston Villa (A); 12 Dec Tottenham (A); 19 Dec Chelsea (H); 19 Dec Leeds (H)
West Ham	15	26	+4	4	3	1	12	9	3	2	2	8	7	DWWDWW	5 Dec Leeds (A); 12 Dec Middlesbrough (A); 19 Dec Everton (H); 26 Dec Arsenal (A)	
Arsenal	15	25	+8	4	4	0	11	3	2	3	2	4	4	WDLWD	5 Dec Everton (H); 13 Dec Aston Villa (A); 26 Dec Leeds (H); 26 Dec West Ham (H)	
Chelsea	13	24	+9	4	3	0	11	4	2	3	1	11	9	DDWDW	Today Sheff Wed (H); 3 Dec Everton (H); 12 Dec Sheff Utd (H); 19 Dec Man Utd (A)	
Leeds	15	23	+8	4	2	1	10	3	1	6	1	12	11	DWWDWL	5 Dec West Ham (H); 14 Dec Coventry (H); 26 Dec Newcastle (A); 26 Dec Newcastle (A)	
Middlesbrough	15	23	+7	3	4	0	12	5	2	4	2	12	12	DDDLWD	8 Dec Newcastle (H); 12 Dec West Ham (H); 15 Dec Man Utd (A); 26 Dec Liverpool (H)	
Liverpool	15	22	+7	3	3	2	15	10	3	1	3	11	9	LLWW	3 Dec Tottenham (H); 13 Dec Middlesbrough (A); 19 Dec Sheff Utd (H); 26 Dec Middlesbrough (A)	
Derby	15	21	+1	2	3	2	6	6	3	3	2	9	8	DWDLW	3 Dec Arsenal (H); 12 Dec Chelsea (H); 19 Dec Coventry (A); 26 Dec Everton (A)	
Wimbledon	15	20	-6	3	3	1	11	8	2	2	4	8	17	DWDLWL	3 Dec Coventry (H); 13 Dec Liverpool (H); 19 Dec Southampton (A); 26 Dec Charlton (H)	
Newcastle	15	19	0	4	2	2	13	10	1	2	4	6	9	LDLWL	8 Dec Middlesbrough (H); 12 Dec Blackburn (A); 19 Dec Chelsea (H); 26 Dec Leeds (H)	
Tottenham	15	19	-4	3	2	2	11	12	2	2	4	8	11	DWDLW	3 Dec Liverpool (H); 12 Dec Man Utd (H); 19 Dec Charlton (A); 26 Dec Coventry (A)	
Leicester	15	18	-2	3	2	2	9	8	1	4	3	7	10	WDLLD	3 Dec Southampton (H); 12 Dec Nottm For (H); 19 Dec Newcastle (A); 26 Dec Sheff Wed (A)	
Everton	15	18	-5	1	4	2	2	5	3	2	3	8	10	LLWW	3 Dec Chelsea (H); 12 Dec Southampton (H); 19 Dec Man Utd (A); 26 Dec Derby (H)	
Charlton	15	16	-1	2	3	2	13	8	1	4	3	9	15	DDDL	3 Dec Blackburn (H); 12 Dec Sheff Wed (A); 21 Dec Aston V (H); 26 Dec Wimbledon (A)	
Sheff Wed	15	16	-1	3	2	2	7	3	1	2	5	7	12	DLDDL	7 Dec Nottm For (H); 12 Dec Man Charlton (H); 19 Dec Liverpool (A); 26 Dec Leicester (H)	
Coventry	15	15	-8	3	2	3	9	10	1	1	5	4	11	LLWLD	3 Dec Wimbledon (A); 14 Dec Leeds (H); 19 Dec Derby (H); 26 Dec Birmingham (H)	
Nottm Forest	15	11	-12	1	4	3	6	9	1	1	5	6	15	LDLWL	7 Dec Sheff Wed (A); 12 Dec Leicester (A); 19 Dec Blackburn (H); 26 Dec Man Utd (A)	
Southampton	15	10	-19	1	2	5	9	17	1	2	4	3	14	DDLLWL	3 Dec Liverpool (H); 12 Dec Everton (H); 19 Dec Wimbledon (H); 26 Dec Chelsea (H)	
Blackburn	15	9	-10	2	1	4	9	10	0	2	6	5	15	DLILL	3 Dec Charlton (H); 17 Dec Newcastle (H); 19 Dec Nottm Forest (H); 26 Dec Aston Villa (H)	

FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP		SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL		ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal	Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal	Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

	Home										Away										5-game form	
	Pt	Pts	GS	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		Next round on night	Upcoming matches						
Sunderland	20	43	48	6	2	1	24	6	5	0	24	9			WWWWLW	13 Dec Stockport (H); 12 Dec Port Vale (H); 13 Dec Crystal Palace (H); Dec Birmingham (A)						
Ipswich	20	38	29	6	1	3	14	5	5	4	1	15	6		DDWLW	2 Dec QPR (A); 12 Dec Tranmere (H); 12 Dec Stockport (H); 13 Dec Sheff Wed (H)						
Watford	21	36	37	5	4	1	15	10	5	2	4	22	21		DWDWD	13 Dec Barnsley (H); 12 Dec Stockport (H); 12 Dec Grimsby (A); 26 Dec Bristol City (H)						
Birmingham	21	35	30	5	4	2	17	10	5	1	4	13	12		DWLLW	5 Dec Ipswich (A); 12 Dec Oxford Utd (A); 13 Dec Huddersfield (H); 12 Dec Sheff Wed (H)						
Bolton	20	34	39	6	3	2	23	13	3	4	2	15	16		LDWWWW	5 Dec Wolves (A); 12 Dec Tranmere (A); 12 Dec Portsmouth (H); 26 Dec Bradford (A)						
Sheffield Utd	21	33	33	6	3	2	19	17	3	3	4	14	16		DLWLW	5 Dec Bristol City (A); 12 Dec Bury (H); 13 Dec Ipswich (H); 26 Dec Birmingham (A)						
Norwich	19	32	31	4	4	1	17	11	5	1	4	14	14		DWDWL	2 Dec Grimsby (H); 3 Dec Swindon (A); 12 Dec Wolves (H); 13 Dec Bristol City (H)						
Wolves	21	32	30	6	3	1	16	8	3	2	6	14	13		WWDWL	9 Dec Bolton (H); 12 Dec Norwich (H); 13 Dec Bradford (A); 26 Dec Swindon (A)						
Huddersfield	21	32	29	7	3	0	19	9	2	2	7	10	27		DDLWL	5 Dec C Palace (H); 12 Dec West Brom (H); 13 Dec Bury (A); 26 Dec Grimsby (H)						
Bradford City	20	31	35	6	2	2	24	11	3	2	5	11	14		WDWLL	5 Dec Oxford Utd (A); 12 Dec Swindon (A); 13 Dec Wolves (H); 26 Dec Bolton (A)						
West Brom	20	30	39	7	0	4	25	16	2	3	4	14	19		WLWLW	3 Dec Bury (A); 3 Dec Crewe (A); 12 Dec Huddersfield (H); 13 Dec Tranmere (H)						
Grimsby	20	29	24	6	4	1	18	8	2	1	6	6	14		WLDLW	2 Dec Norwich (A); 3 Dec Tranmere (A); 12 Dec Portsmouth (A); 19 Dec Watford (H)						
Crystal Palace	18	27	30	7	2	1	25	12	1	1	6	5	18		LWLWD	5 Dec Huddersfield (A); 8 Dec Tranmere (H); 12 Dec Bristol City (A); 13 Dec Sunderland (A)						
Barnsley	21	26	32	4	4	3	21	14	2	4	4	11	16		LDLWL	5 Dec Watford (A); 12 Dec Ipswich (A); 12 Dec Swindon (H); 26 Dec Stockport (A)						
Stockport	21	26	26	3	5	3	14	12	2	6	2	12	14		WDDLW	3 Dec Sunderland (H); 12 Dec Huddersfield (H); 13 Dec Oxford (H); 26 Dec Barnsley (H)						
Bury	21	24	15	6	2	2	11	6	0	4	7	4	18		LDLWL	3 Dec West Brom (H); 12 Dec Sheff Utd (H); 13 Dec Port Vale (A); 26 Dec Crewe (A)						
Swindon	21	23	29	5	3	2	22	15	1	2	8	7	19		WWLWL	3 Dec Norwich (H); 12 Dec Bradford (H); 19 Dec Barnsley (A); 26 Dec Wolves (H)						
Oxford	21	23	25	4	3	3	17	12	2	2	7	8	23		DLWFW	3 Dec Bradford (H); 12 Dec Birmingham (H); 13 Dec Stockport (A); 26 Dec Crystal Palace (H)						
Tranmere	20	22	26	2	4	4	12	14	2	6	2	12	15		DLDDL	5 Dec QPR (A); 8 Dec Crystal Palace (A); 12 Dec Bolton (H); 26 Dec Sunderland (A)						
Port Vale	21	22	24	4	1	6	11	20	2	3	5	13	20		LLLDL	5 Dec QPR (H); 12 Dec Sunderland (A); 19 Dec Bury (H); 26 Dec West Brom (A)						
Portsmouth	21	21	29	4	2	4	16	13	1	4	6	13	22		LDLWL	5 Dec Crewe (H); 12 Dec Grimsby (H); 13 Dec Bolton (A); 26 Dec Ipswich (A)						
QPR	20	21	21	3	3	3	9	7	3	0	8	12	22		WWWWLW	2 Dec Ipswich (H); 5 Dec Port Vale (H); 12 Dec Crewe (H); 13 Dec Crystal Palace (H)						
Bristol City	21	16	30	2	4	4	17	24	1	3	7	12	25		LLLDL	5 Dec Sheff Utd (H); 12 Dec Crystal Palace (H); 13 Dec Norwich (H); 26 Dec Sunderland (A)						
Crewe	20	11	21	2	2	6	11	22	0						LLLDL	3 Dec Portsmouth (A); 8 Dec West Brom (H); 12 Dec QPR (A); 19 Dec Huddersfield (H)						

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FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

NATIONAL LEAGUE		NATIONAL LEAGUE		NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal	Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal	Man Utd 1-0 Arsenal	Blackburn 1-0 Arsenal

Everton find life after Ferguson

FEW WOULD dare say so in Goodison Park's Gladys Street stand, but the more discerning Everton fans will have greeted the transfer of Duncan Ferguson with the thought: "It's about time". Heresy, maybe, but, despite the Scot's two-goal debut for Newcastle on Saturday, probably correct. Everton's own 2-1 victory over Charlton Athletic at The Valley provided plenty of supporting evidence.

The talismanic Ferguson has many qualities but his presence in the Everton side was not doing either party any favours. Mindful of his capacity to win a match single-handedly, many team-mates had abandoned all pretence of passing the ball, simply hoofing it at his head from the halfway line. As well as making Everton thoroughly predictable, it left good footballers like John Collins and Tony Grant redundant and also ruined Ferguson's game.

Though talented on the ground, he ended his Goodison days doing little more than hanging around the D at the top



GLENN MOORE

of the penalty box with his arm in the air waiting for the long punt forward.

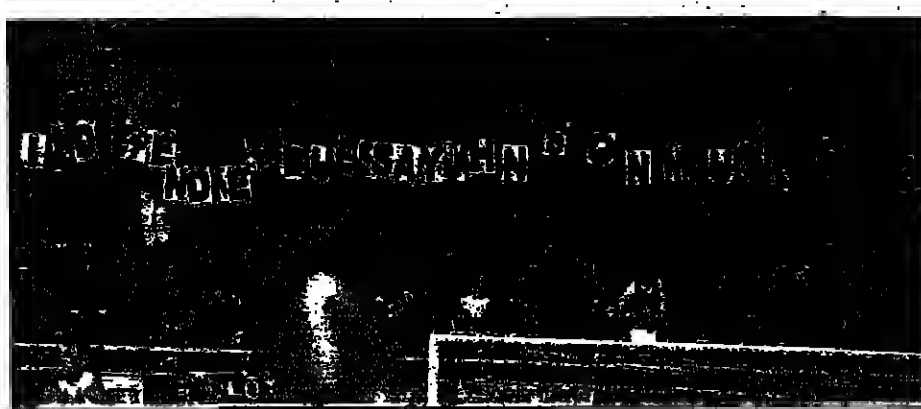
Everton's pre-Saturday tally of eight goals in 14 league matches underlined the team's goalscoring problem. Ferguson may have scored half of them but his niggardly return in four years as a Blue, 37 goals at one every three matches, reflected his habit of only turning it on in the big games.

Since debuts come into that category, Newcastle fans should not get carried away just yet, though the fresh start, the presence (maybe) of Alan

Shearer and the stylistic demands of Ruud Gullit could enable him to flourish anew.

Everton fans, meanwhile, should not look longingly at Tyneside but positively towards the future. There was more attacking variety on Saturday than they have managed in any game this season and also three points, two goals and the luxury of a missed penalty. The midfield trio of Collins, Grant and Don Hutchison were always involved, moving the ball neatly amongst themselves and frequently picking out both the supporting wing-backs and the breaking central strikers with good passes. The team still looks short of quality in several areas, but it was a promising start to the post-Ferguson era.

Not that Walter Smith was prepared to concede a link. The manager stuck rigidly to his insistence that he was both ignorant of and against the transfer - assertions not every Everton-watcher believes - and added: "Try to tell anyone at Newcastle we're better off without him. He's an asset to any



Disgruntled Everton fans spell out their message to the chairman

Empires

club. Everybody said we were fighting relegation because we kept playing the ball up there. I don't believe that was the case."

But Smith did concede: "When he's not there there is an extra onus on the rest to make sure they take part in play. You do have to change slightly. If it forces us into a different type of football, all well and good - as long as it is winning football."

Smith noted that the confi-

dence engendered in a young team (more home-grown than Charlton's) was as important as anything and Monday's victory over Newcastle clearly helped - mainly because it gave players belief in their passing and their ability to win without Ferguson.

There is still work to be done. In attack Ibrahima Bakayoko looked bright in flashes but his decision-making is still too slow for the Premiership and he does not look

the easiest player for a raw teenager like Danny Cadamarteri to develop a partnership with. Neither is an instinctive striker.

When Cadamarteri played an excellent ball into the area after eight minutes it was made to look useless because Bakayoko stood and waited for something to happen rather than gambling and hitting the near post in case it did.

Shortly before the break it happened again, only this time

Hutchison was the provider and both Cadamarteri and Bakayoko were standing watching.

Cadamarteri redeemed himself in first-half injury time as Everton's new penchant for passing paid rich reward. Collins, winning possession by his own corner flag, played his way out of trouble instead of simply lashing the ball upfield. He found Grant, who passed to Michael Ball, whose curling ball behind the defence lured Sasa Ilic into a foolhardy rush from his goal. Cadamarteri proved quicker and rounded the off-balance keeper before scoring.

The game should have been secured shortly after the interval when Bakayoko, running on to Grant's fine pass, was dragged down by Mark Kinsella as he shaped to shoot. Ball, made nervous by a protracted wait for an injury elsewhere, hit a poor penalty and Ilic saved.

Kinsella, who was not even booked by the lenient Keith Burge, compounded the injustice by equalising with a 35-yard free-kick but Cadamarteri, tak-

ing a thoughtful pass from Hutchison in a goalmouth mêlée, quickly restored Everton's lead.

The ease with which they held it will have worried Alan Curbishley, whose Charlton side have now gone five Premiership games without a win. They are hard-working but are struggling to achieve the speed of thought and depth of concentration required in the Premiership. They did hit the post, through Andy Hunt, in a vibrant first-half spell which also saw Thomas Myhre make an excellent double save, but there was little else of note. If Clive Mendonca, with one goal in nine games, does not recover confidence, a thin squad is in for a hard winter.

Goals: Cadamarteri (45) 0-1; Kinsella (72) 1-1; Cadamarteri (73) 1-2. **Charlton Athletic** (3-5-2): Ilic; Rufus, Woods, Tiler (5 Jones, 4/5; Wills, Redfern, Kinsella, Mortimer, Newton, 68), Powell; Hunt, Mendonca. **Substitutes not used:** K Jones, Barnes, Royce (84). **Everton** (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Watson (Mazenga, 4/5), Unsworth, Dunn, Hutchison, Grant (Peters, 83), Collins, Ball; Cadamarteri, Bakayoko (Cleland, 90). **Substitutes not used:** Jeffers, Gerrard (89). **Referee:** K Burge (Torpington). **Bookings:** Everton: Ozer. **Man of the match:** Hutchison. **Attendance:** 20,043.

Hammers' new policy pays off

HARRY REDKNAPP is doing a terrific job, but looking down from West Ham's lofty perch in the Premiership was not about to make him light-headed. "The championship?" he said, chuckling in response to that grand illusion, "Look, when we finished eighth last season I thought, what have I done? What will they expect of me now?"

Flippancy cannot conceal Redknapp's satisfaction with the progress made since a corner was turned two seasons ago. Smiling from failed gambles on foreign players, West Ham's manager began placing most of his bets at home. Paul Kitson, John Hartson, Steve Lomax, Neil Ruddock, Ian Pearce. "From relegation, we finished in championship form and we haven't looked back," he said after Saturday's 2-1 defeat of Tottenham.

In fact, Redknapp was in better form than his team. "Ginola (David) needs to put in some work on his ball control," he cracked.

Ginola's mesmeric touch and the crosses he repeatedly whipped into West Ham's goalmouth answered in part one of the questions raised when George Graham took over at White Hart Lane. The hard taskmaster Graham and the fitful Frenchman hardly seemed compatible.

Ginola playing in support of twin strikers? Forget it. In Graham's mind he plays on the left wing or nowhere. "Today, I thought Ginola was outstanding," the Tottenham manager said.

Nobody wants to see their



KEN JONES
ON MONDAY

name in a headline next to the word unwanted. No successful player, and that's how you must describe Ginola, wants to hear that he's not the right man for the job. Maybe that explains Ginola's recent brilliant response to Graham's demanding management.

Whether Ginola's commitment lasts is another matter but out there on the left, hugging the touchline, going this way and that, occasional flaws in concentration can be accommodated.

The excitement West Ham's players showed at the end, hugging each other and running to salute their supporters, ran deeper than the satisfaction gained from success in a London derby. If it was proof of the spirit that Redknapp is proud about, it touched too on the realisation that a makeshift Tottenham team, in which a 19-year-old centre-back Luke Young was making his debut, deserved something from an exciting contest.

To his astonishment, Graham discovered that Tottenham have hardly any quality youngsters coming forward. "At Leeds



The go-between: Tottenham's David Ginola gives Trevor Sinclair and Ian Pearce, of West Ham, the slip at Upton Park on Saturday

Peter Jay

it was only a question of when to bring in the emerging talent," he said, "something that David [O'Leary] is doing now."

With Tottenham's treatment room filling up again - John Scales, Ramon Vega, Justin Edinburg - and Colin Calderwood suspended, Young stood up to the tough assignment he was given and almost equalised late on with a rasping drive against the crossbar.

Ahead in the 38th minute

when Espen Baardsen fumbled Frank Lampard's shot to Trevor Sinclair's eager feet, West Ham went further ahead immediately after half-time. Sinclair taking perfect advantage of a chance made for him by Paul Kitson.

Free at last from the injuries that have kept his appearances for West Ham down to 34 since joining them from Newcastle United 19 months ago, Kitson was consistently the brightest

of the home team's attackers. When Tottenham started to throw their full-backs forward in an effort to save the game, West Ham found it so difficult to protect their lead that Chris Armstrong's headed goal from Ginola's corner did not surprise anyone.

As in any team sport, the will to make things happen in football overrides tactical considerations. The will and the wit. Would West Ham have cele-

brated their third successive victory if Armstrong and Stephen Iversen had been more alert to the angle and trajectory of Ginola's centres? This is just one of the things that Graham will be seeking to improve while going around in search of replacements.

The move Graham made last week for Lampard - officially £4.3m - had Redknapp bristling. "I heard somebody say on Sky television that we are

holding out for £2m," he said. "That's cobbles. Frank [Lampard] isn't going anywhere."

Big time or small time. The book-balancing sale of Andy Impey to Leicester City last week, a move opposed vigorously by Redknapp, suggested the latter category. "We get 26,000 here every home match," Redknapp said. "It would be breaking faith if we transferred any of our best players."

A comfort to West Ham's

supporters will be the fact that Graham was in Germany on Friday watching a midfielder.

Goals: Sinclair (38) 1-0; Sinclair (46) 2-0. **Armsong** (73) 2-1. **West Ham United** (3-4-1-2): Huggs, Pearce, Ferdinand, Ruddock, Sinclair, Lomas, Lampard, Berthoud (Peters, 40), Lascaridis, Kitson, Hartson. **Substitutes not used:** Scally (84), Breacher, Morgan, Abou. **Tottenham Hotspur** (4-4-1-1): Baardsen, Carr, Young, Campbell, Sinton, Watson, Armstrong, Iversen. **Substitutes not used:** Wilson, Gower, Threlwell, Walker (81). **Bookings:** West Ham: Kitson. **Tottenham:** Sinton. **Referee:** D Gallagher (Barnbury). **Man of the match:** Ginola. **Attendance:** 25,044.

Howey repays Gullit vote of confidence

IT WAS a good day for the new kid in Toon on Saturday. It was not a bad one for the old boy either. Duncan Ferguson may have made a striking impression, with his match-winning contribution and his wholehearted commitment to the black and white cause, but Steve Howey's assured performance even had the two-goal star of the show winking lyrically.

"The big fellow Howey was outstanding," Ferguson said. "I couldn't believe it was his first game of the season. He was immense."

Certainly, Ruud Gullit was immensely pleased with the one player in his starting line-up who cost nothing - as pleased as he was with his £7m acquisition. "I'm extremely happy with Duncan," the Newcastle manager said, "but also with Steve Howey. It's like having a £3m signing."

"We have not had a commanding centre-half. That's why I'm so pleased with Steve. I made him captain for the day to show how much confidence I have in him and how much I believe in him."

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 3
Wimbledon 1

Howey will be relieved to receive such a firm vote of confidence. Since arriving at St James' Park as an apprentice centre-forward in 1986 he has been obliged to prove his worth to six different managers: Willie McFaul, Jim Smith, Ossie Ardiles, Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish and now Gullit.

On Saturday, his first appearance since the FA Cup final in May, he looked like the quality central defender Keegan likened to Alan Hansen and Terry Venables rewarded with international recognition. He looked nothing like a player whose career has been hampered by injuries since the eve of Euro 96 - most recently by calf and Achilles heel problems.

At 27, St James' longest servant will be hoping his days on the treatment table are behind him. It remains to be seen, however, whether Howey, and indeed Ferguson, can effect a lasting cure for Gullit's bad side.

After five Premiership games without a victory, Newcastle were good enough to beat a Wimbledon team assembled for just £200,000 more than the £7m downpayment they have made to Everton for Ferguson. But at times, especially in the first half, they played like the "relegation team" Gullit last week bemoaned he had inherited from Dalglish.

Admittedly, they were without the injured Alan Shearer, who may be fit to partner Ferguson at Middlesbrough on Sunday, and David Baty, who is more likely to be playing for Leeds by then. But Gullit clearly has some team building to do before Newcastle are a Premiership force once again.

On Saturday it was just as well that Roberto Solano - "Nobby" to Gullit and everyone else on Tyneside - unleashed an equalising right-foot bolt from the blue so soon after Marcus Gayle had stirred restiveness among the natives, courtesy of a stray Gary Speed pass.

It was just as well for Newcastle, too, that Ferguson's self-confessed mis-kick hit the



Howey: Assured display

target on the hour - and that the pigeon-fancying Magpie rose to the occasion with his last-minute header.

With a black and white No 20 shirt on his back, Ferguson managed to do what he did at Selhurst Park last month wearing the No 9 of Everton. Every Don may have his day but Saturday was one of a grounding nature for Joe Kinnear and his players, thanks to Newcastle's new signing. For the second time in seven weeks, they were slam-dunked to defeat by the big man.

Goals: Gayle (33) 0-1; Solano (37) 1-1; Ferguson (60) 2-1; Ferguson (90) 3-1. **Newcastle United** (4-2-3): Green (Harpur, 4); Currie, Hughes, Howey, Barton; Gillespie, Hamman, Speed, Gullit (Solano, 77); Anderson, Ferguson. **Substitutes not used:** Dalglish, Ketschala, Beharall, Whitham (4-4-2); Sullivan, Cunningham, Blackwell, Perry, Harcher, Armstrong (Roberts, 77), Earle, Ewell, Kennedy (Arday, 40), Gayle, Leaburn (Eloka, 40). **Substitutes not used:** Kinnear, Heat (89). **Referee:** U Rennie (Sheffield). **Bookings:** Newcastle: Hamann. **Man of the match:** Howey. **Attendance:** 36,623.

Chelsea's inconsistent form gives Vialli much to ponder

THE HOTEL has been awarded four stars by the AA; the Megastore is coming in as the Christmas rush begins; and Fishnets (which, it transpires, sells seafood, not stockings) is a chock-a-block. Fortunately, though frustratingly, what really matters in Chelsea Village is still putting the ball between the white sticks more times than the opposition.

Saturday was a frustrating day, then, for the football team who live there, though one put admirably in context by their occasional player-manager Gianluca Vialli, the perfectionist who understands human frailty.

Many managers in his position (fourth, with the chance to go second) would have been ranting and raving about a failure to dispatch this moderate Sheffield Wednesday side. Vialli, on his own admission, "can't speak English when I get really angry". While a decent proportion of the side would understand Italian ranting rather better, he prefers a tone so softly modulated that, sitting further back than the front row

BY STEVE TONGUE

Chelsea 1
Sheffield Wednesday 1

at a press conference, it is difficult to hear a word.

"The result was quite fair," he whispered on Saturday. "The players are a bit disappointed because we lost a good opportunity to improve our position in the table. It's something that happens, especially in England, because the competition's so tight."

Wednesday illustrate that point. Unable to score a goal against the likes of Southampton and Coventry, they have now beaten Arsenal and Manchester United, and drawn at Stamford Bridge on another afternoon that confounded expectation from the start.

Vialli began it by naming an unchanged team for the only time since his opening two matches in charge last February. As if that was not enough of a shock, Andy Booth should have scored for the visitors within 20 seconds.

Then Wednesday's Tango Man, naked to the waist as ever, had just begun a chant of "By far the greatest team the world has ever seen" when Pavel Srnicek obligingly tipped a cross from Celestine Babayaro on to Gianfranco Zola's head for the opening goal.

Later, as another Yorkshire foghorn was urging the Wednesday manager "Sell Booth, Wilson, do your job," the striker in question smartly beat Ed de Goey to Nicolas Alexanderson's low cross to equalise.

Dominant for an hour, Chelsea had lost their way and might have conceded a penalty when Marcel Desailly handed. Only Zola remained a threat, far more so than his partner Ture Andre Flo, who did not enhance his case for a regular place with this display. It is inconceivable that Vialli will keep an unchanged side very often during December, a month in which the foreign players might have been led to believe, English football slackens off a little before the hectic holiday period. Well, just the

eight games this month, chaps, starting with Wimbledon in the Worthington Cup tomorrow, then Aston Villa, Manchester United (twice) and Tottenham, among others.

Despite setting a club record with 19 unbeaten matches, Chelsea have stayed "in the shade", as Vialli put it, partly because Villa have been enjoying a place in the sun. The immminence of re-arranged midweek matches against the leaders and then United will change all that, and possibly change the shape of things at the top of the table as well. It will be difficult for the Village People to remain low-profile much longer.

Goals: Zola (25) 1-0; Booth (67) 1-1. **Chelsea** (4-4-2): De Goey; Fenne, Leboeuf, Desailly, Le Saux; Goldthorpe (Pierucci, 77), Di Matteo (Morris, 77), Poyet, Babayaro, Flo, Zola. **Substitutes not used:** Duberry, Nicholls, Hitchcock (84). **Sheffield Wednesday** (4-4-1-1): Srnicek, Achertson, Thorne, Walker, Hinchcliffe, Alexander, Somner (Magilton, 56), Jola, Ruck, Carbone, Booth (Humphreys, 89). **Substitutes not used:** Srnicek, Stanovis, Clarke (84). **Referee:** N Barry (Scunthorpe). **Bookings:** Chelsea: Leboeuf, Desailly. **Man of the match:** Zola. **Attendance:** 36,451.

Nostalgia threat to troubled Saints

BY ADAM SZRETER

Southampton 0
Derby County 1

A REGULAR feature in the Southampton programme looks back over a season in which the Saints did particularly well and featured names like Stilton and Channon, Keegan and Ball. Thus far into a season which looks unlikely to join those ranks, it must have been a pleasant distraction from what has been happening on the pitch, but after a fifth home defeat on Saturday articles like that are now in danger of provoking serious unrest in the Saints.

It should be pointed out that Southampton have something like a dozen players unavailable through injury and Matt Le Tissier suspended for this game, but no team ever escaped relegation through mitigating circumstances.

David Jones is still struggling manfully, having been dealt some lousy hands recently. He brought in two new faces on Saturday but long-term injuries to important acquisitions like David Hirst and John Beresford are difficult for a small club to overcome, and Jones' frustration boiled over into saying some things about the referee, Stephen Lodge, that he might subsequently regret.

There were a couple of penalty appeals that might have gone their way on another day, but, unlike impartial spectators, supposedly impartial referees rarely err on the side of the underdog even if they are playing at home.

There was also an element of luck involved in Derby's winner, scored by their record signing at £2.7m Horatio Carbonari, an Argentinian defender of Italian descent, whose appearances have been limited by injury.

Paulo Wanchope, meanwhile, must be becoming a cause for some concern on Jim Smith's part. The languid style that has confounded his critics and delighted the Derby fans over the past couple of seasons is beginning to look a trifle laboured at the moment and, if he continues to miss chances like the one on Saturday, when he seemed to want everyone to stop while he took his time in front of an open goal, then Smith might have to seriously consider an alternative focal point to his attack.

As for Southampton, they can certainly take some heart from the midfield performance of Hassan Kachoul, the first Moroccan international to grace the Premiership, and the 19-year-old defender Garry Monk, whose accomplished display helped to compensate for the absence of three other first-choice defenders. But it looks a long, hard road for them now.



Robbie Fowler (right) and Blackburn's Stéphane Henchoz watch as Michael Owen scores Liverpool's second goal with his knee at Anfield yesterday

Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Yet another blow for Blackburn

A WRETCHED eight days for Blackburn Rovers culminated in defeat at Anfield yesterday when even the normal antidote to gloom, the appointment of Tony Parkes as caretaker manager, did not halt the spiral downwards. When even this lucky talisman fails to work, you know things are getting serious.

This is the fourth occasion that Parkes has moved into the Ewood Park manager's office and on the last occasion, two years ago, his first win was against Liverpool. Unfortunately for him, there was no repeat of that transformation yesterday as goals from Paul Lane and Michael Owen condemned Rovers to their 10th

BY GUY HODGSON

Liverpool 2
Blackburn Rovers 0

defeat in 15 League matches. They are still bottom of the Premiership and, worryingly, a gap of six points has opened between themselves and the positions of safety.

They did not play badly and indeed their reserves of spirit were commendable given that they lost their manager Roy Hodgson, the previous weekend and are still handicapped by a grievous injury list but the results refuse to come. Instead it was Liverpool, no strangers to disappointment themselves

this season, who were breathing easier last night.

"It's difficult to say too much to the players," Parkes said, "because we lost but when we went 2-0 down I thought it was going to be four or five. But we dug in and didn't crumble which is a great credit to them. I lost my first match when I was in charge last time so I'm not worrying yet."

Liverpool began the match as crisply as the late afternoon air and within six minutes John Filan had saved Patrick Berger's volley and then had been relieved that Jamie Redknapp's 25-yard shot had flown close but wide. Anfield lurched in this

mood soon changed when this bright opening faded to reveal Liverpool at their hesitant and inaccurate worst and soon the home crowd was bawling its own players.

Of course, the home team contributed to the feeling of unease but Blackburn were playing their part, too. Far from being cowed by recent events, they attacked with vigour. Kevin Gallacher's free-kick hit Ince and deflected just wide. Nathan Blake was too high with a shot and Damien Johnson's header flashed just over and if anyone appeared likely to score it was the visitors. Instead, against the run of play, Liverpool struck twice in two minutes.

The goals came like a bolt from the blue, which was approximately the impression Filan would have got of the first as it curled viciously past him on the half hour, struck a post and rolled into the net. The scorer, from 25 yards, was Ince and although the first impression was that it was just a lucky thump, television evidence showed intent from the England midfielder as well as underlining the contribution of Robbie Fowler's smart turn and lay-off.

Blackburn have had blows raining in on them from many directions of late and this latest looked to have them groggy but worse was to follow after 32 minutes, Ince crossed acci-

identally from the right and Fowler would have had a relatively easy chance if his control had been as good as the pass. The ball bounced off him, however, but rather than being punished for his sloppiness it fell to Owen, whose first shot was saved by Filan and the ball ricocheted off the 18-year-old's knee and into the net.

The goal was anything but archetypal Owen, owing more to luck than his lightning pace or a striker's precision, but the start of the second half saw two examples of both. First Fowler set the hare free with a glorious pass that deserved better than his younger partner's horrible look of a shot but the sec-

ond was a startling explosion of power after 57 minutes that so surprised Filan that the ball had bounced off his chest before he could adjust his position.

Liverpool, being Liverpool, could not sustain this flurry and the closing stages were Blackburn's and Blake threatened twice. But close is not enough. Rovers need victories. Parkes has a tough task ahead of him.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Filan; Kenna, Henchoz, Dally, Davidson, Johnson (Dawson, 67); Morrison, Dorr, Duff, Gallacher, Blake. Substitutes not used: Broome, Croft, Taylor, Forde (64).
Referee: J. Winter (Middlebrough).
Bookings: Liverpool: Stannett; Blackburn: Davidson.
Man of the match: Ince.
Attendance: 41,753.

Villa's title hopes rest on Merson cure

IF EVER there was an opportunity for a certain FA-approved faith healer to prove his powers, this is it. Paul Merson's back problems, even more than John Gregory's problems at the back, are undermining Aston Villa just as the three-match sequence that could make or break their title challenge looms into view.

In normal circumstances, Gregory would probably be no more inclined to call in Eileen Drewery than Ian Dury. However, the prospect of Merson's mysterious ailment keeping him out of Saturday's visit of Manchester United, and perhaps the games with Chelsea and Arsenal which follow, might persuade the Villa manager to consider even the quirkiest of cures.

The £8.75m signing with-

BY PHIL SHAW

Nottingham Forest 2
Aston Villa 2

drew in acute discomfort during the half-time break at the City Ground. The fact that Villa then clawed back a 2-0 lead which did not flatter Nottingham Forest might suggest that the Premiership leaders can cope comfortably without Merson, but Gregory is only too aware of his importance.

As the only member of Villa's squad with a championship medal, Merson brings precious experience to the cause. He had been their one outstanding performer in the last half of Liverpool, although Gregory revealed that the injury troubled him, so much before the

game at Southampton a week earlier that he slept on wooden shelves laid on the floor.

"Mobility is vital in the job. Merson has been doing and he was struggling out there," Gregory said. "He could be out for a week or a month, who knows. We haven't been able to find out what it is, whether it's a muscle or a bone or whatever."

The former Arsenal man himself admitted: "I was no use to myself or the team, and tactically the switch needed to be made anyway."

Whether or not the back pains relent, the experiment is likely to go on the back bench. After conceding only five goals in the first 13 competitive games, Villa had suddenly hemorrhaged 16 in five and a half.

"I always knew three forwards was a risk," Gregory conceded. "Five in midfield protects the back three a lot better. I was pleased to keep a clean sheet in the second half."

Relieved, too, for Villa were less than half an hour from the first League away defeat of their nine-month reign when Forest squandered the chance to put the outcome beyond reasonable doubt at 3-1. Dougie Freedman, otherwise a revelation alongside Pierre Van Hoojdonk, shot wide when scoring

or passing to the Dutchman looked easier.

When Forest failed to clear the ensuing goal-kick, Julian Joachim's raised boot beat Dave Beasant's hands to the ball to equalise. The diminutive striker had already halved the arrears with an equally dubious goal as Dublin impeded Craig Armstrong.

Despite Gregory's concern that Joachim plays "with the heart and not the head", the probable indisposition of Merson and Stan Collymore's suspension mean he is almost certain to face United.

The spirit and style with which Forest started should encourage the belief that relegation is not inevitable. The central midfield trio exploited their numerical advantage

impressively. They broke into scoring positions, as Chris Bart-Williams did to stunning effect, and maintained a good service to the strikers, one of whom, Freedman, doubled the advantage.

Their failure to finish off Villa owed as much to a timidity born of a winless run stretching back to August as to Gregory's makeover. Dave Bassett bemoaned their luck, and though he was doubtless grateful for Dublin's dreadful miss at the death, there were plenty of pluses, not least the form and commitment of Van Hoojdonk.

Gregory even described them as "like the Forest of old", detecting a resemblance between the way Bart-Williams, Nigel Quastie and Scott Gemmill

initially pulled Villa apart and the slick-passing Brian Clough sides he once played against.

Bassett repaid the compliment, saying he saw "no reason" why Villa should not still be top come the end of the season. With the quality of Merson strained, being there at the end of this week may be an achievement in itself.

Nottingham Forest (3-5-2): Beasant; Heide, Christie, Armstrong, Stone, Gerrard (Johnson, 77); Quastie, Bart-Williams, Sone, Freedman (Bartholomew, 65); Van Hoojdonk. Substitutes not used: Edwards, Harewood, Croxall (64).
Aston Villa (3-4-1-2): Cole; Ebdon, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Hendrie, Taylor, Wright, Merson (Thompson, 67); Joachim, Dorrin. Substitutes not used: Grayson, Scimeca, Vassell, Rachel (64).
Referee: G. Whitham (Warrington).
Bookings: Forest: Gerrard, Van Hoojdonk; Bart-Williams, Quastie. Villa: Southgate, Hendrie.
Man of the match: Bart-Williams.
Attendance: 25,753.

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Dynamic Leicester just short of a marksman

BY JON CULLEY

Coventry City 1
Leicester City 1

That spirit is the mark of Martin O'Neill and there is no one, it seems, whom it has not touched, especially at the heart of the team, where Steve Walsh and Matt Elliott are twin souls, and where Neil Lennon and Muzzy Izet perform with energy that never flags.

Izet is hugely underrated, as dynamic as his partner in central midfield but with brilliant nimble feet and wits that are equally quick. All in all this was an ugly skirmish, played in a rush and without much attention to quality.

Leicester should adopt "never say die" as their club motto. Beaten? Us? Not a bit of it. Loins girded, they went for the equaliser and got it, with two minutes to spare.

Emile Heskey was the man in the right place. Just recovered from the ankle injury that probably cost him an England cap against the Czech Republic, he suffered back damage in the first half that hampered his mobility thereafter, but he is driven by the Leicester spirit and did not give in.

That spirit is the mark of Martin O'Neill and there is no one, it seems, whom it has not touched, especially at the heart of the team, where Steve Walsh and Matt Elliott are twin souls, and where Neil Lennon and Muzzy Izet perform with energy that never flags.

Izet is hugely underrated, as dynamic as his partner in central midfield but with brilliant nimble feet and wits that are equally quick. All in all this was an ugly skirmish, played in a rush and without much attention to quality. Izet is scrappy with the best of them but he can also make you appreciate the deftness of his touch by twisting or turning with almost balletic agility.


He was the most impressive midfielder among both sets, outshining even Gary McAllister, whose progress Craig Brown was in the stands to assess. McAllister, fully recovered from the ligament damage that shattered his World Cup

dreams, will not be long out of a Scotland shirt. Whether Izet ever gets to wear an England one is another matter. Glenn Hoddle, once his manager at Chelsea, used to admire him greatly; now he shows no sign of noticing him at all.

Meanwhile, both O'Neill and Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, continue to look high and low for strikers.

Leicester have been muddling along with Heskey, who needs a good partner; and the 33-year-old Tony Cottee (missing on Saturday) and doing none too badly. With their dynamism and a prolific scorer up front, they could be more than merely hard to subdue. O'Neill has tried for Ashley Ward and John Harrison and will keep trying.

Coventry City (4-4-2): Hoddle; Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Ullahorne; Impey, Lennon, Izet, Guppy, Heskey, Foster (Savage, 78). Substitutes not used: Vaggott, Paries, Zagorakis, Arphoad (64).
Referee: M. Riley (Leeds).
Leicester City (4-4-2): Hoddle; Sinclair, Elliott, Walsh, Ullahorne; Impey, Lennon, Izet, Guppy, Heskey, Foster (Savage, 78). Substitutes not used: Vaggott, Paries, Zagorakis, Arphoad (64).
Referee: M. Riley (Leeds).
Struggling-off Leicester's Sinclair, Bookings: Coventry: Huckerby, Froggatt, Taylor, Leighton, Izet.
Man of the match: Izet.
Attendance: 15,894.



Game Results 28/11/98
This Saturday there were 12 score draws:

CHelsea	V SHEFF WED	Luton	V MAN CITY
Coventry	V LEICESTER	Preston	V Wigan
Nottingham	V ASTON VILLA	York	V Northampton
Crystal P.	V Watford	Ayr	V St. Mirren
Port Vale	V Tranmere	Clydebank	V Raith
Bristol R.	V O'Han	Forfar	V Inverness CT

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches
Home wins (1): Rochdale V Cambridge Utd.
Away wins (0): NONE.
No score draws (0): NONE.
Score draws (0): NONE.

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Premiership: Late goal earns point for champions while Manchester United struggle to subdue spirited opponents

Anelka rescues shaky Arsenal

THE CELEBRATIONS told the tale. Rarely can champions have greeted a last-minute home draw against a newly-promoted team with such joy. As those supporters who had not already turned their back on last year's heroes exited, the Arsenal players held their arms aloft in supplication.

Since Nicolas Anelka's equaliser at Highbury yesterday was their first goal for seven minutes shy of six hours the relief was understandable.

However, it still left Arsenal without a win in six matches, the best results of which have been two home draws. Even so, they move up to fourth.

Middlesbrough, denied their first victory at Highbury since the war, left the pitch in despair but they had more to be proud of. Organized and determined they had deserved to win even though they spent most of the last hour in defence. They still move up to sixth.

"It is a measure of how far we've come that I've a squad of players who are disappointed at getting a point at Arsenal," Bryan Robson said. "They were pushing players forward and we should have punished them. We could have killed them off and we need to work on our counter-attacking."

Robson felt Gascoigne's de-

BY GLENN MOORE

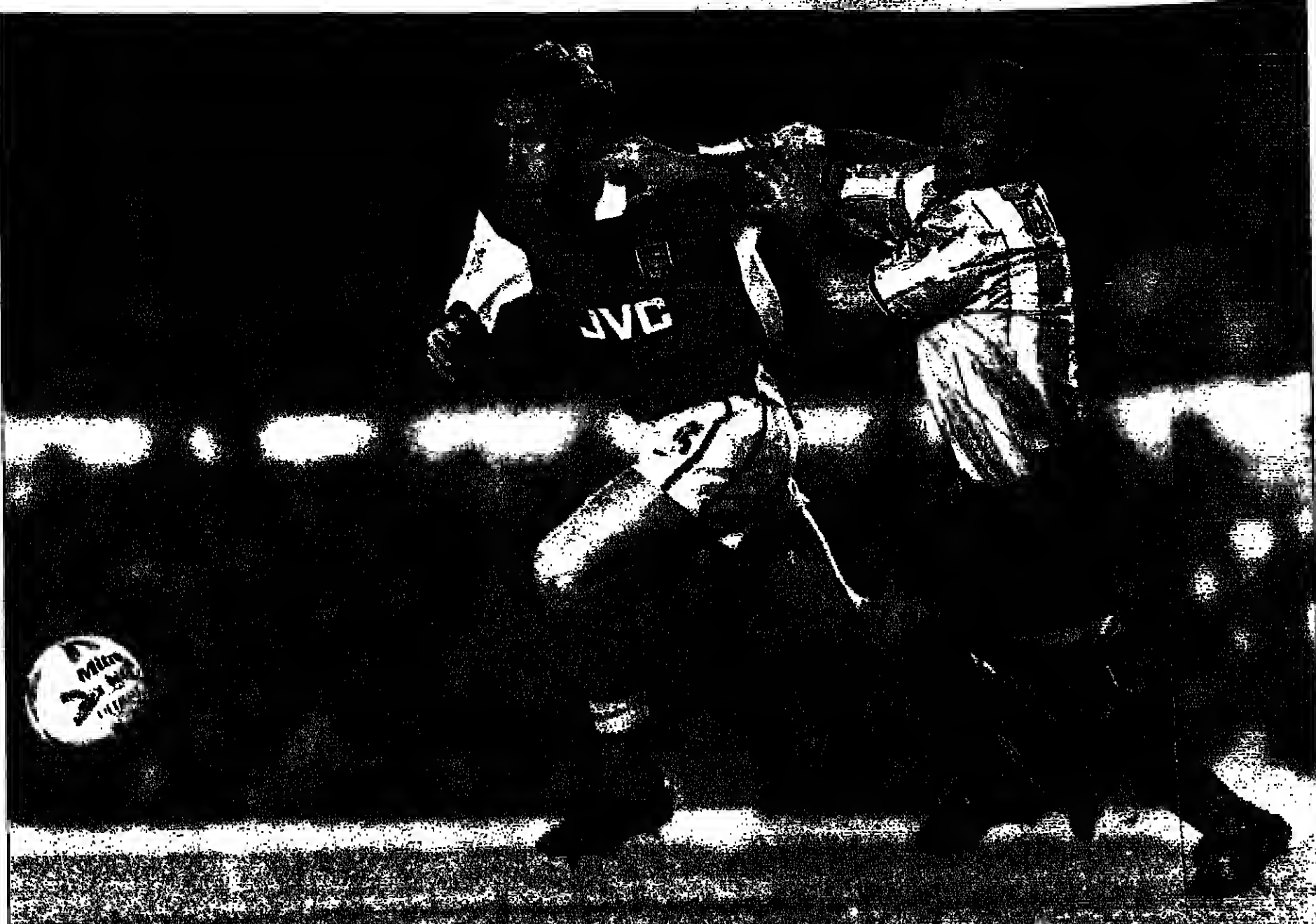
Arsenal	1
Middlesbrough	1

parture, after an hour, had been a factor in Arsenal's eventual domination of possession and added: "He's not trained Sunday, Monday and Tuesday because he was having treatment and had also taken a couple of knocks. He did well and his fitness is improving."

Gascoigne, whose treatment relates to his alcohol problem, was playing his first match against Arsenal since the 1991 FA Cup semi-final when his memorable goal from a 35-yard free-kick helped Tottenham to victory. He did nothing as dramatic yesterday but dovetailed neatly with Robbie Mustoe and Andy Townsend in a disciplined Boro midfield.

Then fatigue set in, he reduced his sphere of influence to the centre circle and was found wanting for pace when booked for a late tackle. Shortly afterwards Robson withdrew him. It was, nevertheless, a promising display even though the booking, his eighth of the season, could rule him out of next month's trip to Old Trafford.

Boro, too, are looking much healthier after traumatic previous experiences at this level.



Middlesbrough's Paul Gascoigne tries to get to grips with Ray Parlour, of Arsenal, during yesterday's 1-1 draw at Highbury

Allsport

They had begun brightly, as befits a team on the rise, and their confidence contrasted sharply with Arsenal's lack of belief.

The gulf inevitably widened after Boro scored. Townsend, sporting an unfeasibly dark and glossy mane, and the relatively trim Gascoigne combined to release Dean Gordon on the left. His low cross was comfortably tucked in by Brian Deane.

Had Deane converted an even better chance 10 minutes later the contest would have been settled but Arsenal perked up and Middlesbrough gradually pulled back the wagons and invited them on. With Boro guarding the area in numbers, most of the attacks either foundered or ended in 20-yard pot shots, none of which were strong enough, or accurate enough, to

trouble a goalkeeper as large and agile as Mark Schwarzer. Instead it was Boro who carved out the best chance, Gordon crossing from the left after 71 minutes, only for Mikkel Beck to head wide from six yards.

Wenger brought on Luis Boa Morte and Fabian Caballero, a young striker of mixed Spanish-Argentine-Paraguayan nationality, and pushed Marc

Overmars and Steve Bould into attack. It seemed to no avail and the increasingly restless crowd began leaving by their thousands when Remi Garde put successive shots high into the North Bank. Then he got another chance and, this time, chipped forward. Bould's faint touch carried to Anelka who scored off the bar.

"We didn't deserve to lose because we showed character," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I'm pleased for Anelka, he has had criticism but he showed he fights."

Butt's strike is too good for suffering Leeds

A MEMORABLE goal to cap an outstanding individual performance from Nicky Butt took Manchester United to within a point of Aston Villa at the top of the Premiership.

There could have been no more fitting way to decide a match that was a long way from being technically perfect but for which the turn of events fell well short. Butt had already made a huge contribution with his tireless industry when he took a pass from Phil Neville on the edge of the penalty area with 15 minutes remaining, turned and shot past Leeds' substitute goalkeeper, Paul Robinson, in stunning fashion.

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Manchester United	3
Leeds United	2

That sent Leeds back across the Pennines empty-handed, but they emerged with great credit from this game. From time to time, their vocal wedge of supporters at Old Trafford sang "Butt's coming home"; there was a good deal of that returning prodigal's tigerish determination in this display, unwarded as it ultimately was.

A Leeds defence already lacking several key members was under heavy pressure even before the loss of two more in

the first half. Martin Hiden was stretched off with a knee injury and almost immediately Nigel Martyn hurt his back getting his fingertips to Butt's goalbound header to divert it on to the bar.

Concern over those events was lifted somewhat when, completely against the run of play, the visitors took the lead. Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink took a pass from Harry Kewell to the left of the goal and, with Phil Neville failing to close him down, fired in a low right-footer that cannoned in off the foot of Peter Schmeichel's post.

Martyn tried to soldier on and Leeds even had a chance to dou-

ble their lead when Kewell lobbed wide of an exposed target. With half-time approaching, however, Roy Keane backed tracked to keep an attack moving. Dwight Yorke ran at the defence and released Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for the Norwegian to beat the struggling Martyn from an acute angle.

It was no surprise that the England goalkeeper failed to reappear for the second half and within 20 seconds of replacing him Robinson, Leeds' third choice in the position, was picking the ball out of the net.

Not that Martyn or anyone else could have done a great

deal about it, such was the precision engineering of the goal. Butt's magnificent cross-field pass found Paul Scholes, who twisted Ian Harte in all directions before getting in a low cross from the byline. There could be few more daunting sights for a newly-arrived goalkeeper than Keane bearing down on the ball to smash it into the roof of the net from 10 yards out.

That should have been the signal for United to take a more assured control of proceedings, but this was a performance from them that was just like the newly relayed playing surface - loose and uneven.

Within six minutes, a plucky Leeds were level again. Wes Brown's slip allowing Kewell through and a neat chip leaving Schmeichel helpless.

A Manchester side from which David Beckham, Jesper Blomqvist and Denis Irwin were rested after their Barcelona epic called up the reinforcements in a bid to win it. Three recent absentees all got into the action: Ryan Giggs and Teddy Sheringham as tactical changes and Henning Berg out of necessity when Jaap Stam finally succumbed to a virus.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD
By Portia

No.3781 Monday 30 November

1 Across: Sense of importance (7)
2 Across: Take off inside section of wall (7)
3 Across: Retire to concentrate on work in hand (3,4,4,4)
4 Across: Chap put new sign the other way (4)
5 Across: Building in photo we remember (5)
6 Across: Risk losing money to get (4)
7 Across: Eastern spirit (4)
8 Across: Even now a number's willing to join (7)

9 Down: Furtherest edge is over the top (7)
10 Down: Express journalist having little time for dog (7)
11 Down: Mass medium about to introduce colour (7)
12 Down: Father had potato dish without delay (2,3,4,2,1,3)
13 Down: Excellent return when operating within island (3)
14 Down: Talk on furry animal found in France (7)
15 Down: Fixed before to bring in new show (7)
16 Down: Audibly regretted being offensive (4)
17 Down: Extortionate insurance premium (10,5)
18 Down: One isn't in a state of suspense (7)
19 Down: Academic's so radical (5)
20 Down: Bright young boy, by the sound of it (5)
21 Down: Pay increase cut by one lawyer - it's ludicrous (7)
22 Down: Plenty may be seen in it (7)
23 Down: Cut them to save on time (7)
24 Down: Is practice doctor about to be badly treated? (7)
25 Down: Somebody caught breaking in - not again (4)
26 Down: Problem storing carbon cross (4)

16 Down: Relative heavyweight's written about English town (7)
17 Down: Concerned with type of copy produced (7)
18 Down: Adjust study schedule (7)
19 Down: Condition in a way causes strain (4)
20 Down: Last yen is spent (5)
21 Down: Prophet a majority ultimately ignored (4)
22 Down: Secretly responsible for public outbursts (6,3,6)

Batty's Leeds return is imminent

DAVID BATTY is almost certain to become a Leeds United player over the next two days. The Newcastle midfielder's advisor said yesterday he has cancelled all appointments over the next 48 hours in an effort to rush through Batty's £4.5m move.

"I'm expecting Leeds and Newcastle to contact one another tomorrow," Hayden Evans said. "We'll just sit tight and wait for Newcastle to say 'Go and talk to Leeds'."

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit said yesterday that players should consider going on strike because of the amount of football they are expected to play. "What can we do?" he said. "Well, we could do what they did in Italy and stop playing - but top players in England are scared of the FA."

"Too much alcohol kills the body, too much cocaine kills the body, too much love kills the body. In fact too much of anything kills the body that's why too much football will kill the game."

Tramp Group Limited, a private international oil trading company based in Bromley, Kent, announced yesterday that they are to invest in Crystal Palace. The company will make substantial sums available to the club, and will be represented on the board.

"We have been impressed by [chairman] Malcolm Goldring's vision for the club and his undoubted commitment and energy, and we look forward to working with him," a spokesman for Tramp said.

Goldring delighted that a company of this standing has backed our five-year plan."

JPR blows whistle on 'rife' use of drugs

WELSH RUGBY officials are to investigate drug abuse allegations made by the former Wales and Lions full-back JPR Williams.

Williams, part of Wales' all-conquering team in the 1970s, is among a clutch of internationals, including England's Jonathan Webb and Jeff Probyn, who have voiced concerns about drugs and their sport.

"Taking banned substances is fairly rife, and most of it is done in the off-season," Williams said.

"It is fairly well recognised that certain players have been

swissair

You could think flying via Zurich to many European cities took longer than via Frankfurt or Amsterdam? Wrong.

appearances for his country, heard mixed reactions from the Welsh Rugby Union.

"JPR's accusations are obviously serious ones, and it does seem strange that he has not voiced his concern directly to the Union," said a WRU spokesman.

"The innuendo leaves an unsatisfactory feel about it, and it is now down to the Union to follow through on what has been alleged and to ascertain what substance there is to JPR's concern."

Williams' fears were confirmed by former England and Lions prop Mike Burton, who said: "Drugs are a problem. It is obvious from some of the body shapes you see."

No English-based players have yet tested positive for drug abuse, but positive tests were carried out on Richie Griffiths, the former Wales B and South Wales Police centre, and the ex-Leeds forward Paul Jones.

JP 11/15/98

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday, 30 November 1998

spirited opponent

imminent

se of drugs

THE INDEPENDENT

30 November 1998

3 7

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Tom Pilon

Life's a Sunset Beach

She was going to be the next Elizabeth Taylor. These days Lesley-Anne Down takes work where she finds it – right now, it's in the best daytime soap opera since 'Crossroads'

So, here she is, then, Lesley-Anne Down, once "Britain's Most Beautiful Teenager" and once, of course, the flighty, ravishing, utterly captivating Miss Georgina Worsley in *Upstairs, Downstairs*. I can still see her now, in her little sparkling hula dress, with those big sparkling eyes, flirting outrageously with someone jolly handsome in the Eaton Place drawing room, little, downstairs, Mrs Bridges was bellowing: "RUBY! ROO-BEEEEEE! YOU COME AND HELP ME WITH THIS MILK PUDDING NOW, MY GIRL!" The part quickly transformed her into the nation's, and the tabloids', absolute darling. She may even have been Elizabeth Hurley before there was any Elizabeth Hurley. The prototype, if you like. And very, very big things were predicted for her. "The next Elizabeth Taylor," declared the *Daily Mail* in 1973. But today? Today she is not a great big movie star. Instead, she is Olivia Richards in the American daytime soap *Sunset Beach*.

Now, let's see, how best to give you a little thumbnail-sketch of Olivia? OK. Here goes. Olivia used to have a drink problem, and also used to be married to Gregory Richards, played by a cracking actor who can do lines, and facial expressions, but singularly fails to ever tie the two in together. Olivia has a baby son, Tres, unbeknown to her grown-up daughter, Caitlin, who is a graduate (cum laude) of The American School of Dramatic Hair Tossing – they are all, actually, very good at tossing, but Caitlin's the best – and who thinks Tres came from a prostitute. Caitlin certainly doesn't think Tres could be her brother, or might even be her half-brother, because Olivia once had an affair with Cole, who suffers under the weight of a great deal of hair gel and thus looks permanently perplexed, and who is now married to Caitlin, while Gregory is now married to Annie, who has lips like dinghies and who drugged Olivia and stole Tres in the first place before Olivia found out and Gregory divorced her, because he thought Tres died as a result of her drinking. And that's about it. I think. Tragically, *Sunset Beach* is only on here at 10.20am on Channel 5 which means that, for a busy, professional, go-getting high-brow like me, I only ever get to see it daily.

Now, I know what you're thinking. You're thinking: "Look what Lesley-Anne has come to!" And: "Where did it all go pear-shaped?" Well, if that's the case, and I suspect it is, then I can only say you are mad. *Sunset Beach* is, almost certainly, the best thing on telly at the moment. Indeed, for anyone who has had, say, a *Crossroads*-shaped hole in their lives ever since *Crossroads* was axed, then *Sunset Beach* is just the ticket, and possibly more so. The plots are ludicrous, the acting is appalling and, as for the dialogue! Well, take Olivia to her ex, Gregory, while they are stuck in a lift, and he's coming on to her, because he's unknowingly



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

been doped with Viagra, and she finds herself succumbing: "LOVE [breath] ME [breath] GREGORY [long breath]. LOVE [breath] ME!" It's all you could ever hope for, frankly, and no Benny in his silly bobbie hat, which has to be a plus.

I say all this to Lesley-Anne. She is not offended in the least. She has, she says, never considered herself an artiste in any way. Do you think you can act, even? "God, no. Absolutely not. But if someone pays me to do something, I will do it to the best of my ability, and on Mars if necessary." How would you describe what you do in *Sunset Beach*? "Technique. Just full-blown technique! Although it's very hard work, darling. We average four scenes an hour. We don't rehearse. It's brush your hair, then boom-boom-boom, you're doing it." So, in short, it's a matter of trying not to fall over the props, then waiting for the truck to come round with your wages? "It is certainly much better paid than *Upstairs, Downstairs* ever was!" She says she now takes her jobs where she can find them. She once did a season in *Dallas* as PR Stephanie Rogers. "Why? Because they offered me a quarter of a million dollars for seven days' work over 10 weeks. What do you think I am, darling? STUPID?" Still, she agrees that "Who shot JR?" might be up there with "Is Amy Turtlet a Russian spy?" as one of the greatest soap storylines ever. "Was she a Russian spy?" she asks. I say she got off in the end, but frankly, I always had my doubts. There always looked like room for a kalashnikov under her piny, to me. "I see," says Lesley-Anne. "Hmmm."

Although she now lives in the very Hello! territory that is Malibu – "Jane Seymour lives round the corner. Her kids came trick or treating the other night" – she is over here for a few days, so we meet in her London hotel suite. We are joined, at various times, by Lesley-Anne's younger sister, Angela, Lesley-Anne's husband, Donnie, and her and Donnie's eight-month-old son, George, who seems to have black teeth ("We think the housekeeper is feeding him juice"), plus a succession of chambermaids who knock then come in to say: "Hiya, Olivia. I just wanted to say hiya, and maybe I could have a photo, Olivia?" "Maybe a little later, sweet-

ie," says Lesley-Anne, who isn't even very good at acting friendly sometimes. Later, she complains: "This has been going on endlessly. In fact, when I first arrived here a few days ago, I went out in the evening. I was knackered, I looked awful. I wore a big hat – but still everyone in the street was shouting 'Ohhh, Olivia'. And 'Ohhh, *Sunset Beach*'. I don't understand it. It is such a silly little show."

Nonsense, I protest. It's a terrific show. In particular, I love the strange kind of time warp that goes on, so that a character knocks on a door, then 139 episodes later someone finally answers it. I like the fact that there are only ever two camera angles. I like the fact it makes Santa Barbara look slick. I like... "Oh, stop," pleads Lesley-Anne. Her sister Angela interrupts to say she thinks Lesley-Anne is a better actress than she thinks she is. "You were very good in *Hanover Street* with Harrison Ford," she insists.

"But that was such romantic drivel, darling!" Lesley-Anne cries. "Trouble is, that film didn't know whether it wanted to be a war story or a love story," says Donnie.

"Ag-ga-ga-ga-goo," goes George, through his spiky, rotten teeth.

I say that, aside from anything else, she did do truly great cleavage in the American mini-series *North and South*. She can at least feel proud of that. She says: "That wasn't cleavage! That was my spare tyre being pushed up!" Lesley-Anne is possibly rather bonkers. But, still, she can be quite bright and funny at times.

She is now 44, but is still very fine looking, with the huge green, sparkling eyes, and great bones and everything, although she might be a bit over-made-up. You know, lots of black round the eyes and lashes so mascara-ed they look crunchy. She has so far resisted plastic surgery, "but only because Donnie won't let me."

"Roy Orbison died on the table getting a face-lift," retorts Donnie. "It is a life-threatening operation."

Donnie, her third husband, is a cameraman whom she met on the set of *North and South*. Lesley-Anne seems to have spent much of her life going from one bloke to another, actually. First it was Bruce Robinson, the actor who turned writer (*The Killing Fields*) then writer-director (*Withnail and I*, *How to Get Ahead in Advertising*) and with whom she lived with for 10 years from the age of 15. Next it was an Argentine, Henrique Gabriel, an assistant director whom she met in Egypt on a film set, and whom she married on a whim, but left after 18 months for William Friedkin. She married Friedkin, the director of *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*, and together they had a son, Jack. But when Jack was two, Lesley-Anne met Don, and upped it again. Lesley-Anne and Friedkin then fought a custody battle for Jack in a case which even her own lawyer

Continued on page 9

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To mislay one would be careless, Mr Robinson, but seven?

THERE IS no need for Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury Minister, to resign except that the Prime Minister has said he must. Not in so many words, of course: Tony Blair is rarely as direct as that. But Mr Blair made it clear that his Government would work to higher standards of conduct in public life. "We have to be very careful... that we are purer than pure," he said when he tried to dismiss the boasts of influence-peddling by Peter Mandelson's former assistant, Derek Draper. Those words of Mr Blair's will be thrown back at him again and again.

Today we report that Mr Robinson has overlooked another seven directorships - mislaid them on the way to the Register of Members' Interests in the way the rest of us forget to put sugar and loo cleaner on a shopping list. Obviously, in the Great Scheme of Things, these omissions rank towards the bottom end; certainly in comparison with - to take a random example - the crimes of Augusto Pinochet. Mr Robinson was at the time an opposition backbencher; the directorships were declared publicly at Companies House; they were unpaid; and he divested himself of them six months after a new requirement came into effect that they be registered at the House of Commons.

But each successive move towards more open declaration of the financial interests of MPs and ministers was introduced as a direct result of heavy and moralistic pressure from Labour in opposition. And, far from moderating the high moral tone in government, Mr Blair has sought to maintain it - despite the practical complexities produced by catapulting business leaders straight from their boardrooms into ministerial office.

Mr Robinson was lucky to survive the summer reshuffle. It was acutely embarrassing for the Government to have the beneficiary of a £12m Guernsey trust fund announce plans to tighten the tax regime on the savings funds of those not rich enough to keep their piles offshore. Observers of a Machiavellian cast of mind thought it might be useful to the Prime Minister to keep Mr Robinson in post, because Gordon Brown had humiliated himself by begging that his ally be spared. That allowed Mr Blair to use the reshuffle to carry out a ruthless cull of several of his overmighty Chancellor's other favourites. But Mr Robinson's ministerial survival does the Government as a whole no good.

There is, of course, no suggestion that he had abused his ministerial position for his - or anyone else's - financial gain. As he said in his own defence as he made his unapologetic apology to the House of Commons two weeks ago, "These shareholdings and directorships were matters of public record. No attempt was made by me at any time to use my position in this House to advance any



commercial interest." The same applies to the directorships which we report today.

But he was required to register them in order that we do not simply have to take his word for it that his behaviour has been above board. He is in a position to employ someone to make sure that the declarations he is required to make have been made - the fact that he has not done so suggests that he simply does not care. It shows that, like many business people, he does not understand the concept of accountability. For him, accountability would seem to be a matter of the bottom line. (Not that Mr Robinson's bottom line in government is so impressive either: his main contribution seems to have been to provide the Chancellor with a plush London bolt hole in his penthouse suite at the Grosvenor House hotel.) But accountability is central to the Blairite promise of a new political morality. Normally, an apology, however ill-advisedly insincere, would be enough. But not in a Government that must be - and be seen to be - "purer than pure".

Vive les Quebecois! Scotland for aye!

TODAY THE people of Quebec go to the polls, and the signs are that they will elect the separatist Parti Quebecois to rule their province again. That does not mean that they are ready to vote to break away from Canada, but independence must be a real prospect - this time. It is only three years since they voted by a margin of just 1.2 per cent to stay in the Canadian federation, but if the PQ can make a success of provincial government why should they not vote differently for a millennial new beginning, say 2000?

Today's vote does not simply matter to Canadians. Much the same logic applies all over the world, and especially to Scotland. The Scottish National Party smashed Labour in a by-election for the European parliament last week, and are likely to do well in next year's elections to

a Scottish parliament. As in Quebec, a referendum is likely to follow. The separatists lost the first Quebec referendum in 1980 by a 20 per cent margin. But a single vote can never settle the national question, and what they call in Montreal the "neverendum referendum" will one day produce a vote for secession, in Scotland as in Quebec.

Meanwhile, the two great forces holding federations together have weakened. The end of the Cold War makes it less important to be part of a large nation-state, a fact which has dissolved the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia; while the North American Free Trade Agreement and the single European market mean that secessionist states need not fear economic isolation.

Just because the Quebec story has been running so long does not mean it will not happen: both Quebec and Scotland could be independent within 10 years. Neither development would be unwelcome: we should rejoice in the new freedoms ushered in by a peacefully co-operating, free-trading world.

At long last this Government faces a decision it cannot delay

THIS WEEK will see a first in the life of the Government. A senior minister will make an announcement which will be followed by passionately conflicting responses in Britain and abroad. What makes Jack Straw's imminent verdict on General Pinochet so different from other potentially explosive decisions which the Government has faced is the deadline. It cannot be postponed indefinitely. This week Straw will declare on Pinochet's extradition and face a storm.

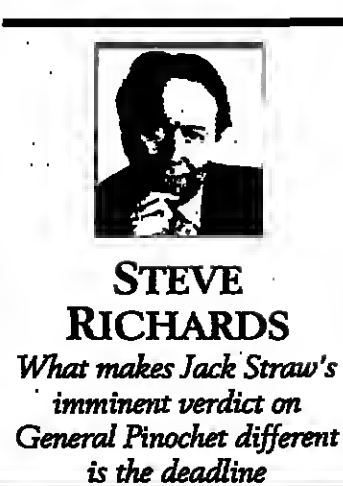
Send him home, screams *The Sun*. So, in a more discreet way, do the Government's close allies in the Clinton administration. On the other side, Labour MPs are united around the reverse proposition that the extradition should go ahead. They are not just fleetingly concerned. Most are passionate that the Law Lords judgment should be upheld.

Normally when the broad New Labour coalition is threatened in such a way the Government has a strategy. It is decisively indecisive. Just as we expect the clash of cynicism to usher in a period of political turbulence a more melodious tune is hit upon. So in the case of Pinochet, if there had been no deadline and the question was only a political one, I have no doubt what the Government would have done. It would have dusted down New Labour's Guide to Avoiding Divisive Decisions: "First conduct off-the-record briefings in which journalists are told that ministers have taken hard choices on the issue. The next day take some comfort at the early morning meeting in Downing Street at the flattering head-

lines, along the lines of "Straw to act tough on Pinochet". On the day of the supposedly controversial announcement, arrange photocopies with the cabinet minister looking suitably focused and sober. Set up interviews with junior ministers during the morning in which they urge impatient interviewers to wait for the Commons statement. By the time of the statement, Westminster is in a frenzy, so much so that most of its occupants have forgotten that no announcement has been made yet."

In this case, Straw would go on to tell a breathless world that the Government planned to issue a consultation paper outlining the "radical" principles on which it would make a decision. *The Sun* would be briefed that this meant Pinochet would be home soon. *The Independent* would be told that the principles outlined by Straw upheld the Law Lords' verdict and were a giant step forward in establishing a fair and effective international law. After a brief lull, Straw would write an article suggesting that in the light of the well-received consultation paper, the final decision by the Government should not be made until after the next election to allow time for the consultations.

So ends the fantasy. To some extent the Government can play these clever, but dangerous tactical games in finessing opinion for the euro and welfare reform or avoiding a divisive referendum on PR, but this decision is heading towards the Home Office at a speed the ministers cannot control. Although Straw's first inclination was to ask for an extension, he is in



STEVE RICHARDS

What makes Jack Straw's imminent verdict on General Pinochet different is the deadline

no position to negotiate a delay. Until now he has been a lucky Home Secretary. He has not had to face the prison escapes and riots which seemed to occur every time Michael Howard declared how tough he was on criminals. But Straw has made his good fortune. He is highly respected by his senior civil servants whereas Howard got into so many scrapes because his instinct was to always blame officials rather than accept any responsibility. In this administration it is the Foreign Office which has become the department of mishaps. Straw faces his awkward decision as one of the most respected ministers in the Government.

So in the second unexpected political eruption this month, Tony Blair has been touched by a degree of luck himself. Ron Davies caused no real po-

litical damage because his resignation preceded the revelations, or lack of them. In the Pinochet case Blair will feel relieved that it is Straw at the helm.

For a start a story with the Home Secretary's name at its centre does not excite the media in the same way as those involving Mandelson, Brown or Cook. If one of that glittering trio was faced with a similarly emotive decision journalists would hardly be able to contain themselves (look at the way the media has reported extensively on the forthcoming Mandelson decision of Manchester United, which has nowhere near as many ramifications as the Pinochet judgement).

The most that is being said about Straw is that if he overturned the Law Lords' ruling it would damage his chances of becoming Labour leader. That is hardly the stuff to get pulses racing. What is more, Straw's importance to Blair tends to be underestimated in the same way as the influence of some Blairite courtiers is overplayed. Of all the cabinet members, Straw's lifestyle and outlook most closely resembles Blair's. His kids go to state schools. Both have successful working wives. They are Christian Socialists. It was Straw who first raised the banner of abolishing Clause Four, braving the anger of John Smith, who was leader at the time. Blair and Straw thought as one in placing clear limits on the powers of the Scottish Parliament, whereas both are more radical in their determination to reform the Lords. On Europe, a sceptical streak which Straw has had since he worked with Barbara

Castle probably echoes some of Blair's private doubts. Only on electoral reform is a difference beginning to emerge now it appears that Blair is inclined to back the Jenkins proposals, while Straw remains passionately opposed.

So far Blair's judgement on Pinochet could not be in better hands. What about the rest of us who believe that last week's judgment should be upheld and not undermined by compromises which will prove equally problematic? It is likely that Straw will give the go-ahead for extradition this week, but I fear that will not be the end of the matter. As I wrote earlier, this Government has an aversion to the "big bang" in politics. A third way may well be sought, whether it is through sending the General back to Chile for trial or at some point in the future, when Straw's legal powers to intervene become greater and the passions surrounding the case have subsided, Pinochet's health could provide an excuse for an early return.

But in the short term the clash of cynicism cannot be avoided for once. Whatever Straw declares, the political consequences will be awkward, messy and provoke attacks from allies who are supposedly part of the New Labour cause. That is what happens in politics with the taking of genuinely hard decisions. In terms of the domestic implications, this is not just about Jack Straw. For New Labour as a whole his verdict will be a cathartic moment.

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We feel the delicate process of transition taking place in Chile for several years has been a very successful one and we don't want it disrupted"

Jose Miguel Insulza, Chilean Foreign Minister

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in"

Graham Greene, novelist

QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

"A highbrow is someone who can listen to the William Tell overture and not think of the Lone Ranger."

Jack Purvis



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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

The Sunday papers comment on the Eurosceptic revival in the row over harmonising EU taxes

BRITAIN WOULD suffer badly from tax harmonisation - our business taxes are substantially lower than in the rest of the EU, as are our non-wage labour costs and top rate of income tax... It is competition, working to drive tax downwards, that is the only efficacious remedy. (Bill Jamieson) *The Sunday Telegraph*

THERE IS a case for Britain to become a part of the European superstate, though it is more

often concealed than declared. Yet if the British people, or just the English, in their hearts want to remain independent of Europe, we will not make a success of the European venture, and had better stay with our national independence, rather than fighting to get it back in 100 years' time. (William Rees-Mogg) *The Sunday Times*

THE ALTERNATIVES to throwing in our lot with the Europeans are to become the de

facto fifty-first state of the US or to operate as an allegedly independent state in a world of volatile capital movements and capricious inward investment... We may wish the op-

tions were different, but they're not. If we are to stop being Europe's reluctant Europeans, a damaging and self-defeating position, we need to engage with why and what the EU is.

Until then, we will face marginalisation abroad and embarrassment at home. *The Observer*

LOOK AT the list of more than 100 leading businessmen who signed an advertisement in the *Financial Times*. Nine of them are foreigners or working for foreign-owned companies. Fifteen are officials of local chambers of commerce or trade associations. I had never heard of 40 of the others. Only 30

would I call leading British businessmen. Was that the best the Euro-extremists could do? (Norman Tebbit) *The Mail on Sunday*

WHY SHOULD we import the bad habits of other European countries, all of which are suffering? Surely they should change their lunatic laws to match our excellent ones! These are serious problems for Tony Blair. (Michael Winner) *News of the World*

donors

And lastly, it is simply massive, and at no point for the sake of the lights. We the public have the right to know through the National Lottery what it is that is being done. It is an added anomaly of the Royal Court that the theatre is not a private business, a charitable foundation. One would have expected it to be. The Royal Court should have some public knowledge of its finances. What is wrong with calling it a small theatre? There are several other small theatres in the country. To demand that a theatre is a century of tradition and prestige on the one hand, and that it does not provide the benefits of a patron of the arts, more an example of posturing straight out of the 19th century.

I won't present



...in a lot of the way on which...

ke-over bit

...the paper...

PC savages and savage TVs

WHAT'S BROWN and sounds like a bell? Dung. It is not, perhaps, the most attractive subject with which to grapple over your toast and marmalade, but dung has lately become fantastically interesting. The most unprepossessing, yet most ubiquitous, substance in human creation is having a remarkable image makeover.

I once listened to Dr David Starkey, the exquisite gaffly of *The Moral Maze*, describing his own spiky contribution to intellectual debate as being similar to the tiny lumps of horse manure that are apparently introduced into French peasant casseroles to make them more luxuriously textured. (I've bought lumps of chocolate in the Camargue that were off-puttingly called "Crottes de Cheval" so I'm sure what he said was true, though I'm not exactly going to rush out and buy *The David Starkey Cookbook* when it appears.)

It seems the good doctor was onto something. On Tuesday, unless my contacts in the art world have been telling shocking fibs, Mr Chris O'Neil will be handed the glamorous Turner Prize for his dense, pointillist art works in which elephant dung plays a key role. They sit on his paintings in haggis-sized lumps, or support his canvases at floor level like fat black caryatids.

According to the Tate Gallery brochure, "For him the introduction of elephant dung is a means by which to establish a dynamic between the increasingly beautiful paint surfaces of his paintings and the perceived ugliness of dung... his use of the dung is not intended as an assault on painting, rather a friendly challenge and embellishment" - and I think we're all jolly glad to hear it.

But of more immediate concern is the rule dung plays in defining one of the essences of our human nature. As I write, controversy is raging in America about the sainted Hopi Indians and the possibility that they were cannibals - and whether, by extension, cannibalism was once a perfectly routine practice in developed societies, from Spain to New Guinea.

Next month, Prof Christy Turner will publish *Man Corn*, a book that suggests American Indians happily dined off their less fortunate neighbours in Arizona at the end of the 16th century about the time Walter Raleigh was discovering the potato and the after-dinner fag. This is a fantastically non-PC challenge to the received view of the Noble Indians - all mild, herbivorous, peace-loving proto-hippies - that has been popular since the Sixties. But the crucial evidence has been found in an excavation site called Cowboy Wash in Western Colorado: seven "coprolites" - that's petrified human dung to you and me - which contain samples of human heart muscle.

Dr Richard Marlar, the chap who discovered this alarming proof that sophisticated Indian tribes munched with relish on human



JOHN WALSH
It makes you look with renewed interest on our current bestseller 'How to Cook Delia Smith'

aorta, has been so bothered by accusations of racist colonialism, he has so far refused to publish his findings.

But we know they exist. They're currently being leaked to the American press, 400 years after the last Amerindian gourmet wiped the last traces of sautéed brains and fricasseed spleen from his greasy lips. The implications are enormous. Has human society always been secretly keen on eating its fellow men, not from the extremities of starvation but from idle choice? Goodness, can *The Human Cookbook* be far away, with its Swifian recipes for "Roast Leg of Pauper Child" or "Devilled Liver of Former Tory Backbencher"?

It makes you look with renewed interest on the two volumes of gastronomic brilliance that currently head the bestseller lists, with their tantalising front covers *How to Cook Delia Smith* and *How to Eat* by Nigel Lawson.

I SPENT far too long on Saturday night carousing with fellow hacks at the Press Ball in the Commonwealth Institute. It was flagged among the inky trade as "the first ever classy journalist banquet", which seems a little hard on all those award ceremonies that have celebrated the Best (Still Living) Foreign Correspondent and Best (Not Banging On About Her Divorce) Feature Writer.

A huge throng of tuxedoed desperados and women in spider-design frocks crammed the Institute, munched prawn-and-mangoutou canapés, marvelled at the young lady got up as a Peter Greenaway pineapple, blinking attractively in the middle of the fruit display, and ate the boneless guinea fowl and lime tart pudding while Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen auctioned a lithographed watercolour by the Prince of Wales (for £10,000) and Mystic Meg's Lucky Jacket (for rather less) and Richard Littlejohn, the well-known Irritating Columnist, gave out awards: Tony Blair got a prize for ubiquity, having recently published 40 self-explanatory articles in a record 17 newspapers.

The most abiding memory of the night (which was in aid of the



The Sioux chief Sitting Bull: a symbol of the 'noble savage' school of history, now challenged by evidence of Amerindian cannibalism

National Press Fund, for journalists down on their luck was the platoon of enormously tall transvestites from Madam Jo-Jo's in the heart of Soho, who greeted startled guests with a bitchiness that's usually confined to discreet interchanges in the hairdressers.

"Disastrous waistcoat," one pompadoured beauty confided to another as I strode in. The wife of the editor of a Major Broadsheet was greeted with "So - we didn't have time to get to the hairdressers, mummm?"

A friend of the organiser, Leslie Hinton (executive chairman of News International) wore a man's dinner suit. "Ooh, cross-dressing! Must try it some time," sneered a saucybox in glittery lipstick. They got ruder when demanding £10 a time for raffia tickets. "It's for your retirement, you tragic old thing," said a voluble, Amazonian mix in fashist tight to anybody slow in pulling out his wallet.

Perhaps this is the future of charity binges - to be abused by the waiting staff, excoriated by the barman, trashed by the DJ and made to feel like elephant dung by people who are after your money.

THE NEW telephone directories arrived the other day, safe and sound. Well not quite sound. They were safely delivered near my house, in the sense that, although they weren't quite brought to the actual front doorstep, they were unquestionably more in my front garden than anyone else's. I looked at them as they lay in the mud under the spidery arms of the silver birch. They looked a bit pathetic - two great, thick, butch objects, crammed with helpful information, sprawling ingloriously in the Dulwich dirt. Like the Two Fat Ladies shortly after coming off their motorbike.

So, when I rang British Telecom next day in query a bill, I mentioned it in passing. "The people who deliver your telephone directories," I said, "seem to take their cue from newspaper boys in Fifties American movies. The ones who cycled past the houses and hurled rolled-up copies of the *Washington Post* or whatever at the recipients' front doors. I could imagine someone getting a nasty blow to the head from a flying *Thompson's Local Gazette* one of these days."

"You mean you have a complaint

about the quality of service in respect to Telephone Book Delivery?" she asked, with a suddenly sharp tone.

"Well, not exactly," I said, "merely a light observation of a domestic-humorous kind..."

"Do you wish to register a Formal Complaint?" she grated, with the air of a Bermondsey minder slipping on a pair of knuckle-dusters.

"No no," I laughed, "but if you happen to be speaking to them in the next few days..."

She rang off. Approximately 10 minutes later - like a Rapid Response Unit in fear of losing its Gold Medal - I got a letter from the Customer Services Manager of the phone-book delivery firm. It grumbled in shame. It snarled at the culprit. It pleaded forgiveness. "This matter will be investigated and severe action taken against the person concerned" it ran.

Visions filled my head of tormented postboys, their scrota encircled in piano wire to which enormous pink E-K volumes are attached, then dropped down a well. "Our contractors are all carefully instructed in the correct methods of delivery, which involve letter-boxing

or handing books to customers where possible," the letter assured me. "Our training video and delivery instruction leaflet clearly set out the high standards that we, as a company, expect from our contractors."

Well, gosh. I had no idea such rigorous arrangements existed in the world of phone-book management. Directory Deliverance is one of the things you take for granted. It wouldn't occur to you that there could be a sort of O-level in it (called what? "Telecommunication Time Logistics"?), or a course of instruction or a training video. What would that be like? 1. Exterior. Day. Man walks along street, holding bookish impedimenta. 2. Ext. Day. Man enters suburban garden. 3. Ext. Day. Man puts two fat volumes on doorstep beside milk and exits, whistling...

Maybe this is the way the world is going. Perhaps as we speak, a new generation of window cleaners' assistants is being trained in the finer points of Ladder Steadying, and being shown the Charnois Leather training video. 1. Ext. Day. Hold leather in hand. 2. Ext. Day. Dip leather in water. 3. Ext. Day. Wipe window...

RIGHT OF REPLY

JEAN COUSINS



The director of the Portman Group replies to Terence Blacker's article on binge drinking

LOOK AROUND at the advertising that you see every day. The puny text supporting glamorous photography and catchy music is not, I guarantee, likely to feature the words "sensible" or "responsible".

So how then, in a world where image is everything and lifestyle is all, can anybody effectively promote sensible drinking? Tony Blair's recent proclamation that "stability is sexy" is great news. If stability is sexy then sensible drinking surely now stands a chance too.

So what now? A multimillion-pound mass media campaign extolling the virtues of alcohol in moderation? That would hardly be responsible, sensible or financially possible!

Perhaps we should be finding new and attractive ways to tell people that you can drink moderately and still have fun? Perhaps we need to look at why binge drinking is a problem in the first place?

We should ask whether our children are told enough, early enough for them to make sensible choices. All too often it seems we react only when things go wrong. And it's not just a parental trait. The media relies too much on the easy hit of a story about the latest sozzled celebrity. In an editor's eyes it seems that stories about spiked drinks are sensible while stories about sensible drinking get spiked. Alcohol misuse develops an image as either the norm or a lifestyle requirement. Binge drinking is a problem partly because people believe that since under old-style guidelines their weekly limit was x units, these could be saved up for a Friday or Saturday night session. Result, sensible rapidly became insensible.

The Government now recommends daily benchmarks for adults of 2-3 units per day for women and 3-4 units per day for men. Sexy? Perhaps not. Sensible? Definitely!

The hero inspired by a spider

ON THE face of it, "the" Bruce, king of Scotland from 1306 to 1329, is the archetypal Scottish hero. He is the king on the run, saved by the common people (like Charlie). His prowess with women produces numerous illegitimate offspring (like Burns). He is a brilliant guerrilla general (like Montrose). And his very special destiny is to secure Scotland's independence from England after nearly three decades of dubiety, in a battle where plebeian footsoldiers destroy the enemy's mounted chivalry.

An ideal national hero, surely? He was a magnificent warrior: the story of his victory over the English champion de Bohun in single combat in front of both armies at Bannockburn in 1314 is exorbitantly Hollywood, yet seems to be true. And, as a sagacious statesman, he secured recognition of Scotland's independence from the Papacy and the English crown.

Yet the 20th-century tendency has been to prefer William Wallace - more "Scotts", though his name indicates Welsh descent; more a "man of the people", though of noble birth, an heroic fail-



MONDAY BOOKS

ROBERT THE BRUCE
BY CAROLINE BINGHAM, CONSTABLE, £25
SCOTLAND AND NATIONALISM: SCOTTISH SOCIETY AND POLITICS, 1707 TO THE PRESENT
BY CHRISTOPHER HARVE, ROUTLEDGE, £15.99

ure and a tragic martyr. The democratic Scottish intellect suits at Bruce's Norman lineage, his estates in England, his hesitations before he launched out in support of his claim to the throne: an opportunistic, half-English toff, not One of Us. Sadly, this biography is Caroline Bingham's last book; she died soon after completing it. She was well equipped to provide a balanced view, not least because she was English. Her scholarship here is solid but unfussy. Her prose is clear and graceful. She is coolly interested in the mythological dimensions of her subject and relates the tale of The Bruce and The Spider to arachnid interventions in the lives of heroes as far away as Japan.

Readers anxious to bone up on Scottish history before the revived Parliament opens next year will not find a better biography of Bruce than this one. Bingham shows that he was as Scottish as the next man. At a time when French, Gaelic, Latin and the northern version of English (which developed into lowland Scots) all had currency in his kingdom, Bruce - with close Celtic family connections, crucial allies in the Church, and some "English" supporters - was able to cope with all four tongues.

The Declaration of Arbroath, sent to the Pope on Bruce's behalf in 1320 by Scottish nobles and clergy, is an astonishing, precocious manifesto of "nationalism". The signatories stand by Bruce, but say that if he lets them down, they will still go on fighting for freedom. The potent idea that kings rule only by consent of the people was taken up by the great 16th-century humanist Buchanan and echoed in the US Declaration of Independence.

So Scots were the first to clarify the idea of popular nationhood, while "Ossian" Macpherson,

Burns and Scott provided models for intellectuals all over Europe in the 19th-century "springtime of nations". How, then, did it come about that Scottish nationalism was never a serious political force between 1746 and the late 1960s?

Christopher Harvie's *Scotland and Nationalism* first appeared as a pioneering study not long before the 1979 referendum, in which Scots voted in insufficient numbers for the assembly on offer. Revised in 1994, it now returns in a third version. The first part of the book, which deals with the expanse of time from 1707 to 1945, has been fertilised by the streams of scholarship which have gushed forth in the last 20 years.

It reads better than than ever as an introduction to modern Scottish history. Harvie is equally at ease with economics and politics, railways and poems. The satisfying roles Scots found - first as generators of their own Enlightenment in their own quasi-republic in the 18th century, then as partners in the rule of the Greatest Empire the World Had Ever Seen - are presented with admirable judgement and wit.

Harvie is a member of the SNP as well as an able polemical journalist, and his feisty and idiosyncratic later chapters will be of less use to beginners. They might find his rapid movement between political theory and insider chatter rather hard to keep up with. And a historian writing about his own times may accord undue trust to his memory. Though the Scottish football team's debacle in the Argentina World Cup may just have affected the 1979 referendum vote, it occurred in the summer of 1978 not, as Harvie states, in the following winter.

I guess that in 10 years' time Harvie's Highland charge at his subject will be of documentary interest, to himself as well as the rest of us,



The monument to Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn

once we have seen how the new Holyrood Parliament works out. Meanwhile, I note that a statuesque image of Bruce dominates this book's cover, but King Robert I is mentioned only twice. Bannockburn is of much less consequence to the mentality of present-day Scots than Archie Gemmill's wonder-goal against the Dutch in 1978 - or the great folk-song revival of the 1950s, which was the basis of later cultural nationalism.

ANGUS CALDER

MONDAY POEM

PIG
BY JO SHAPCOTT

You think of me
as clean and tasty,
don't want to know
about the mud, the tail,
the terrible trotters

don't want to know
about the neat little hats
in my wardrobe, the orchid
collection and the lengths and lengths
of breaststroke, the days and nights
in the Railtrack buffet
and the mad rapture for molasses.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Jo Shapcott's new collection, *'My Life Asleep'* (Oxford University Press, £6.99)

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Jérôme Medrano

JEROME MEDRANO inherited the most charming and fascinating circus in Paris. During his 35 years as head of Cirque Medrano - from 1928 to 1963 - he promoted all the great stars of the circus world, and many from the theatre including Josephine Baker, Charles Trenet, Maurice Chevalier, Jean Marais, Mistinguett, and Jonny Hallyday. Prince Rainier was a frequent visitor, and Medrano cultivated friendships with the painter and designer Verbits and with Jean Cocteau, who designed a programme cover for one of his seasons.

The greatest of all clowns, the Swiss Adrien Wettach, better known as Grock, entertained in the ring of Cirque Medrano on three occasions, and in 1937 was joined in his act by Medrano himself, the circus administrator's one foray into the spotlight. A charming, distinguished, cultured man, Medrano preferred to remain in the background.

The reputation and fashionability of Cirque Medrano was established by the painters, poets and writers who thronged Montmartre in the second half of the 19th century. Art spawned the style of painting known as "Impressionism" and painters flocked to the intimate little circus building on the Rue des Martyrs/Boulevard Rochechouart in the heart of Pigalle, a stone's throw from the Moulin Rouge.

Under its pink-tinted spotlights, great painters like Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Seurat and Renoir created sketches for some of their greatest works. Seurat, whose last studio was close by in the Passage de l'Élysée des Beaux-Arts, was captivated by the equestriennes and the clowns, while Degas painted "Miss La-La" hanging from her teeth in the roof of the circus, a picture now in the National Gallery in London.

The story of Cirque Medrano goes back to 1873 when Ferdinand-Constantin Beert pitched his modest tent on wasteland in Pigalle and stayed on to erect the Cirque Fernando wooden building. Among the several stable circuses in Paris at this era, it became a favourite of Parisian audiences because of its warmth and enticing intimacy.

In 1897, the clown known as "Bourm Bourm", Spanish-born Gerónimo Medrano, a former acrobat and trapeze artist, took over the running of the building, changing its name from Fernando to Medrano. On his death in 1912, he left a widow and a five-year-old son, Jérôme. Management of the building was put into the hands of Rodolphe Bonten, who became Jérôme's stepfather.



In 1937 Medrano joined Grock, the greatest of all clowns, in his act - his one foray into the spotlight

On attaining his majority, in 1928, Jérôme Medrano - a young man with taste, culture and education and fresh ideas - seized his inheritance, and became the director of the Cirque Medrano. Completely refurbishing the building and restructuring the seating (even though it meant losing several hundred valuable seats), he improved the venerable building which had become known as "Le Cirque de Paris".

It was an era when the greatest clowns of Europe appeared in Paris and Medrano's taste in clown acts brought in as many as three leading groups to each programme in a period when the programme changed every two or three weeks. Thus were established the leading clowns of the French capital, the sensational Fratellini, the brothers Albert, Paul and François, who changed their repertoire with each appearance.

Others like Alex and Porto, Rhum, Des and Loyal, Little Walter and Charlie Caroli, then known as Carletto, made his early debut in the Medrano ring with his father and Porto, later joined by his brother Philip. Caroli enjoyed tremendous success in Paris prior to his first appearance in Britain at the Blackpool Tower in 1939 where he remained for 39 years, until the end of his career.

Grock appeared at Cirque Medrano twice in the 1930s and once in the early 1950s, just before his retirement. In January 1937, he appeared

without his regular partner Antonet, and only agreed to perform if Jérôme Medrano acted as his "faire valoir". They rehearsed and rehearsed the music, the dialogue, the physical gags, until perfection was achieved, and in his own magical ring Jérôme Medrano became a star alongside the greatest clown of all time.

Among the artistes he presented at Medrano, were the sensational Flying Codonas, the greatest juggler of all time, Enrico Rastelli, Alfred Court's remarkable wild animals, and the tightwire genius Con Colleano. He was not scared to experiment, however, and often introduced unusual attractions, including Elroy the Armless Wonder, Britain's comic talent Lauri Lupino Lane (son of the "Lambeth Walk" creator), the ballet of Georges Reich, the 22 musicians and dancers of the Scottish Royal Kiltie Juniors Band, the American singing stars the Peters Sisters, the harmonica talents of Larry Adler, and even the "Cake Walk". Gala performances included great stage and film stars like Fernandel, Edith Piaf, Josephine Baker, and the French heart-throb singer Charles Trenet.

In 1936, Jérôme Medrano was successfully running three circuses under the Medrano title, one in Paris, one in a semi-permanent construction in leading provincial towns, and one in a vast big top which toured France. Financial problems, however, caused by divorce from his first wife, Rachel Baquet, from a French

circus family, whom he had married while in his early twenties, put paid to these extra activities in the summer of 1937.

Joining the Navy in the Second World War, Medrano came to Britain as part of the Free French secret service, undertaking dangerous missions for the French Resistance. In 1940 his circus in Paris was taken over by the occupying Germans, who installed a German circus to entertain their troops.

Three years later, Medrano was back in charge, and produced the crazy burlesque show *Les Chester-folies* with the comic Gilles Margarithis, a huge success repeated some time later with Robert Dhery and Christian Duvalier of "La Plume de Ma Tante" fame (it ran for some time at the Adelphi Theatre, London before going to Broadway), and again in 1956 with the famous French clown Zavatta.

Annie Fratellini, a descendant of the Trio Fratellini, and herself one of the world's great clowns, made her debut at Cirque Medrano, and Buster Keaton staged a comeback as a comedian in the early 1950s, earning critical acclaim at a time when his career had all but ended in America.

After the war, Medrano spent several years in America, but continued to send unusual attractions to the circus which was managed for him. In the early 1950s he married Violette Schmidt, a beautiful dancer of acrobatic skill, who had graced the stages of several Parisian theatres and who became a regular in his ring, both as an artiste and as a presenter.

Ever mindful of the competition from the rival Cirque d'Hiver in Paris, Medrano continued to trawl for new acts. These included a complete Spanish circus, the German circus Carola Williams and the first complete troupe of the Hungarian State Circus outside its native environs. He even replaced the circus ring with an ice surface for a spectacular Circus on Ice starring Raymond du Bief, and devised a way of suspending a huge, animal cage in the roof of the building that could be lowered into the ring in seconds, in which disported a group of snowy polar bears, presented by a Dutch girl on ice skates.

Probably none of his discoveries was as unusual, however, as the trapeze artiste Barbette, the circus world's first and only transvestite star. Other attractions included Don Saunders, from Britain, hailed as the "new Grock", who appeared there in 1956.

By a cruel stroke of fate, Medra-



Cirque Medrano's programme for Spring 1933

no lost his circus to his arch-rivals, the Bougliones of Cirque d'Hiver, who had acquired the ground lease of the building, and eventually reclaimed it from him. It closed as Cirque Medrano on 7 January 1963, and the Bouglione family ran it as Le Nouveau Cirque de Montmartre for a few years as well as turning it into a restaurant.

Finally, it was demolished in November 1972 and has been replaced by an apartment block, Le

Bouglione. While demolition proceeded, the clown Achille Zavatta, a former star at Cirque Medrano, visited in full clown make-up and costume, bearing a wreath, his eyes filled with tears at the death of a circus.

For over 30 years, since Medrano's closure, Jérôme and Violette lived in Monaco. Here they attended the International Circus Festivals promoted by Prince Rainier each January. Jérôme Medrano was enshrined into the International Circus

Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana in 1968. His body was interred in the Medrano family vault at the little cemetery in Montmartre, close to the site of his cherished Cirque Medrano.

D. NEVIL

Jérôme Medrano, circus owner: born Paris 18 May 1907; married first Rachel Baquet (marriage dissolved 1937), second Violette Schmidt (one son, one daughter); died Monaco 14 November 1998.



Ray as chairman of The Movie Quiz, 1972

Robin Ray

PANEL GAMES, once the high spot of channels like BBC2, are today reduced to daytime programme fodder. For reasons, ask not the millions of loyal viewers for whom series like *What's My Line?* were topped only by game shows such as *Coll My Bluff*. These series made stars of Barbara Kelly (Mrs Bernard Braden), with her extraordinary earrings, Lady Barnett (Isobel to us fans) and her suspiciously frequent "informed guesses", but also of the chairmen such as former sports reporter Eamonn Andrews or former pianist Joseph Cooper.

One of the best, *Coll My Bluff*, started on BBC2 (then the channel for the intelligentsia, or at least for those with a shade more taste than your average BBC1 viewer) on 17 October 1965. Described by the *Radio Times* as "a duel of words and wit", it starred as regular team captains Frank Muir, the comedy scriptwriter, and Robert Morley, the humorous actor of stage and screen. Supporting them were the actress Celia

Johnson, usually rather cool of performance, and the *Daily Mirror* agony aunt, Marjorie Proops. In the chair sat a young, slim, handsome fellow with the alliterative name of Robin Ray.

The game itself was American by birth, created by that inseparable twosome of early television, Mark Goodson and Bill Todman. The words, all curiously unfamiliar but extracted from the *Oxford English Dictionary*, were illustrated by the newspaper cartoonist "Eamwood". Each team took it in turns to guess which member of the opposing side was defining the unusual word correctly. Sounds not much fun? Well, you try defining wistful, potichomania and jarrah. In the event the show ran for 24 years before disappearing, but has recently been revived as a morning programme, in which the chairman and personalities involved are regularly undated by the currently uninformative *Radio Times*.

Robin Ray became every young lady's ideal chairman. The eldest son of the hugely popular radio comedian

Ted Ray (real name Charles Olden), he was born in London in 1935. His brother is the actor Andrew Ray, and he married the actress and children's television presenter, Susan Stranks.

Educated at Highgate School, Ray showed an early interest in acting and an unexpected taste for classical music, both of which would play major roles in his future career. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and became their chief technical instructor from 1961 to 1965. Meanwhile he had made his London stage debut in the 1960 production of *The Changeling*. He later spent a while in America as an Associate Director for the Meadowbrook Theatre in Detroit.

Face the Music was introduced by BBC2 on 3 August 1972. The chairman, or more precisely piano-stool man, was Joseph Cooper, "giving you a not too serious opportunity to match your musical wits against the team", to quote *Radio Times* again. Although lacking the conscious clutch of comedians that was a strong

suit of *Coll My Bluff*, the carefully chosen cast of the newsreader Richard Baker, Paul Jennings, a humorous columnist from *Punch*, and Joyce Grenfell, character comedienne of acknowledged brilliance, worked perfectly. Especially when from the third show Robin Ray made his debut as a panellist. His unexpected knowledge of classical music would dazzle viewers for year after year.

A chance meeting as panellists of *Face the Music* brought Ray and Andrew Lloyd Webber together, something that eventually led to Ray's authorship of *Café Puccini*. This, his first full-length play with music, about the life of Puccini, was written in a white-heat over eight days, and became an unexpected hit of 1986. Ray had also been the dramatic critic of *Punch*, then the nation's leading humorous magazine. Later came a number of books, including *Time for Losers* (1978), *Music Quiz* (1978) and *Words on Music* (1984).

Between 1966 and 1995 Ray reckoned that he had written and presented over 1,000 programmes for

both the BBC and commercial radio, and in 1988 he was appointed musical adviser to Classic FM Radio. For that independent station he compiled a repertoire of 20,000 selected tracks from a library of 50,000 CDs representing 1,750 composers.

Other achievements include several runs as chairman of *The Movie Quiz* for BBC2, in which he exploited his hobby knowledge of cinema to the full, and the show *Let's Do It*, which he co-wrote and narrated at the 1994 Chichester Festival. Asked recently how he described himself on his passport, Robin Ray followed his father: "I call myself an entertainer," he said. By curious coincidence, Ted Ray is currently to be seen, hale, hearty and hilarious on Granada's revival of *Jokers Wild*. Dad and his lad would be proud of each other.

DENIS GIFFORD

Robin Ray, broadcaster and writer: born London 1935; married 1960 Susan Stranks (one son); died Brighton, West Sussex 29 November 1998.

Wendell Chino

WENDELL CHINO was a hero to American Indians and set out a persuasive philosophy of "red capitalism" that gave Indian tribes a model by which they could regain control of their lands and find a way to greater prosperity. As the long-time president of the Mescalero Apache Nation, he helped to lift his tribe out of abject poverty with a series of entrepreneurial schemes that included a ski resort and one of the first gaming casinos on Indian land.

Chino led the Mescalero for 34 years and gradually won his people a greater degree of self-determination. After years of punishing government policies that ranged from extermination to assimilation, he forced the US authorities to honour the treaties it had made regarding use of land and resources within the Mescalero reservation, which is 200 miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Boy Bernal, Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, described Chino as "a Martin Luther King or a Malcolm X of Indian country. He took stances that affected Indians not only on his reservation, but all over the country," he said. "He was truly a modern warrior."

Until the mid-1980s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs oversaw everything from mining to timber to grazing contracts on the Mescalero reservation, home to 4,000 people. As these contracts came up for renewal, Chino allowed them to lapse and instead created timber and cattle companies controlled by the tribe. With his guidance, the Mescalero Apache Nation then built a ski resort, the Inn of the Mountain Gods, a casino, a timber mill and a metal fabrication plant, as well as Indian schools, a hospital and a health centre.

Often described as a "benevolent dictator", Chino dominated Mescalero affairs, while he travelled the

world as a spokesman for Indian issues and served a term as the president of the National Congress of American Indians. During a court battle over the control of Mescalero Apache natural resources in 1977, he described the problem: "The white man has raped this land and now he wastes the six million acres of Indian land in this state."

The solution, which came to be called "red capitalism", was equally blunt: that Indian people should make decisions about Indian land. At the same time, Chino recognised the need to "participate wholly in the American way".

Believing that, as a nation, Indians had no business negotiating at state level, Chino fought his battles at the federal and even presidential level. He lambasted President Jimmy Carter in 1978 for the lack of attention to the plight of the American Indian. "If Carter has time enough to worry about human

rights in Latin America and poverty in Africa, he should find some time to visit American Indians," he said.

Wendell Chino was born on the Mescalero reservation in 1923 and was educated in the Santa Fe Indian School System. He attended Central College in Pella, Iowa, and the Cook Christian Training School in Phoenix. He was an ordained minister in the Dutch Reformed Church and a graduate of Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

A little man with stooped shoulders, two hearing aids and a booming voice, Chino appeared gruff in public but hid a sly sense of humour. He once described the Mescalero's strength this way: Navajos, he said, make rugs, and the Pueblos make pottery. "The Mescaleros, make money."

Chino's positions could also be unpopular. He split with New Mexico Indian leaders last year refusing to honour a gambling-revenue-sharing agreement with

the state and created a split within the Mescalero community when he invited nuclear power companies to bury their radioactive waste on tribal land, a proposal that was ultimately rejected. His critics questioned where the profits from the Mescalero's successful enterprises went, noting that most tribal members had not seen prosperity.

In an interview with the *Albuquerque Journal* before winning his 17th term as tribal president last year, Chino downplayed his image as a dictator. "Wendell Chino doesn't elect himself," he said. "If they didn't like the way I was operating, they would have booted me out a long time ago."

EDWARD HELMORE

Wendell Chino, activist and minister of the church: born Mescalero, New Mexico 25 December 1923; married (one son); died Santa Monica, California 4 November 1998.



Chino outside the Mescalero Apache Indians' casino, 1996



Gatward (right) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip de la Ferté Joubert (left) admire the model Beaufighter presented to Gatward in 1949 by the Bristol Aeroplane Company in honour of his dropping the Tricolour on the Arc de Triomphe in 1942

Gp Capt Ken Gatward

KEN GATWARD flew one of the most audacious and daring raids of the Second World War. Informed by the SOE in the Spring of 1942 that the Germans were planning to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of France by dropping the Eiffel Tower sticking up like a matchstick and at 12.27pm banked to port and headed towards the Champs-Élysées.

"I'll never forget the astonishment of the crowd in the Paris streets as we swept low at rooftop level. They had been taken completely by surprise," he was to recall later. Unfortunately the usually reliable intelligence source had got the time of the raid wrong and he had arrived several minutes early. Fern, however, released the first Tricolour down the flare chute like a harpoon over the Arc de Triomphe.

Gatward had sighted the Ministère de la Marine in the Place de la Concorde, so flew south over the Seine, returning again to rake the building with 20mm cannon shells. The gun fire terrified the SS troops who, much to Gatward's delight, were seen running for their lives. Fern, the quiet ex-schoolmaster from the Forest of Dean, with a large smile on his face dropped the second part of the Tricolour.

Gatward just cleared the Gestapo building and turned for home. He was not only chased by tracer fire but attacked by flares which snatched into his windscreen so that he could barely see, but fortunately it began to rain as he crossed the channel and as his of the crowd began to drop off, the cockpit temperature began to cool. Throughout the raid Fern had been taking photographs and they were both delighted with a

clear picture of a large notice outside the Grand Palais which read "La Vie Nouvelle" ("New Life").

The French crew, or what was left of it, was removed and laid to rest at RAF Northolt when Gatward landed. He was later to hear that German troops had been waiting for the parade in the side streets, but the whole ceremony was abandoned because of the confusion caused by the attack.

With bleak news coming in from the Western Desert, the excitement created by this spectacular raid raised the morale of the country. The handsome and self-effacing Gatward was awarded a DFC and both he and Fern were fêted everywhere they went.

Alfred Kitchener Gatward was born in 1914 above Hornsey police station, where his father was Chief Inspector. After leaving St George's College in Palmers Green, he became a reporter for the local paper before joining the wallpaper manufacturers Colorall, and was with them when he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserves in 1937.

A sergeant pilot at the outbreak of war, he was commissioned in 1940 and flew Blenheims with No 53 Squadron on low level raids. In 1941 he converted to Beaufighters and flew with No 236 Squadron. After his raid on Paris he was appointed personal assistant to Lt-Gen Mason MacFarlane, the Governor of Gibraltar where he was involved in the plan to smuggle Churchill on to the Rock, prior to the landings in North Africa.

In June 1943 Gatward returned to operations as a Flight Commander with No 404 Royal Canadian Air Force

squadron where he was very much at home with their youthful high spirits. Operating from Wick, it was Gatward's busiest period of the war and as he recalled, his "happiest".

With the loss of his commanding officer, Gatward took over command in March 1944. In August he led a well-orchestrated raid with 24 Beaufighters against enemy shipping in Norwegian waters and, although under intense fire from ship and shore, succeeded in sinking four minesweepers and putting a destroyer out of action. Casualties however were high. At the end of the war, Gatward was in command of No 157 Wing. It was a war in which he lost his two brothers, Frederick and Douglas.

In 1946 he became the liaison officer with the USAF in Germany. In 1955 he took command of RAF Odiham and later served with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He ended his 30 years with the RAF as a Group Captain at Air Cadet Headquarters at White Waltham. He was then commissioned into the training branch of the RAFVR as a Flight Lieutenant where he delighted in calling people "Sir" who had formerly called him "Sir".

After leaving the RAF he enjoyed his retirement with his wife Pamela and was much at home in his masterhead sloop *Flop* at Walton on the Naze, in Essex. **MAX ARTHUR**

GAZETTE

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs Hilary Armstrong MP, Minister for Local Government and Housing, 53; Miss Diana Cotton QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 57; Mr Richard Crenna, actor, 72; Mr Graham Crowden, actor, 76; Mr George Duffield, jockey, 52; Mr Roger Glover, rock musician, 53; Sir Victor Goodhew, former MP and government minister, 79; Mr George Graham, football manager, 54; Mr Andy Gray, footballer, 43; Mr Robert Guillaume, singer and actor, 68; Mr Frank Ifield, singer, 62; Mr Louis Kirby, editor, UK Mail, 70; Mr Gary Lineker, footballer and commentator, 38; Mr Radn Lupu, pianist, 53; Mr Patrick McLoughlin MP, 41; Miss Virginia Mayo, actress, 78; Lord Parry, former chairman of the Welsh Tourist Board, 73; Miss Marguerite Porter, ballerina, 50;

Sir Stanley Rees, former High Court judge, 91; Mr Max Reinhardt, publisher, 88; Mr John Houghton, Scott, Lord-Lieutenant of Shetland, 62; Mr Stan Sulzmann, saxophonist, 56; Lord Cope, former Liberal MP, 55; Mr Phil Willis MP, 57; Mr Efram Zimbalist Jr, actor, 75.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Andrea Doria, statesman and admiral, 1466; Andrea Palladio, (Andrea di Pietro della Gondola) architect, 1508; Sir Henry Savile, scholar and mathematician, 1549; Sir Philip Sidney, poet, soldier and courtier, 1554; John Bunyan, writer, baptised 1638; Jonathan Swift, writer, 1667; Mark Lemon, editor of *Punch* and humorist, 1809; Alkan (Charles-Henri Valentin Morhange), pianist and composer, 1813; Adolphe-William

Bonguerrou, painter, 1825; Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), writer, 1835; Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, scientist, 1858; Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, statesman, 1874; Edgar Douglas Adrian, first Baron Adrian, physiologist, 1889.

Deaths: Edmund Ironside, King of the English, 1016; Michael Wolgemut (Wolgemut), painter, 1519; William Habington, poet, 1654; John Selden, lawyer and antiquarian, 1654; Marcello Malpighi, anatomist, 1694; Marshall Maurice de Saxe (Hermann Moritz), soldier, 1750; Pope Pius VIII, 1830; James Sheridan Knowles, playwright, 1832; Oscar Fingal O'Flaherty Wills Wilde, playwright, 1900; Edward John Eyre, explorer, 1901; Ernst Lubitsch, film director, 1947; Wilhelm Furtwängler, conductor and composer, 1954; Beniamino Gigli, operatic tenor, 1957; Patrick

Kavanagh, poet, 1967; Sir Terence Mervyn Rattigan, playwright, 1977; Zeppo (Herbert Marx, comedian and agent, 1978; Joyce Irene Grenfell, entertainer, 1979; Richard Llewellyn (Richard Dafydd Iwan Llewellyn Lloyd), writer, 1983; Cary Grant (Alexander Archibald Leach), actor, 1986.

On this day: Charles XII of Sweden defeated the Russians at Narva, 1700; Mexico declared war on France, 1838; photographs were first transmitted by radio from Britain to the United States, 1924; the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, near London, was destroyed by fire, 1936; Finland was invaded by the Soviet Union, 1939; U Thant, Burmese diplomat, was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1962; Barbados became independent, 1966; the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen became independent, 1967; the Trades Description Act came into force, 1968; because of a union dispute, *The Times* ceased publication for nearly a full year, 1978.

Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew the Apostle, St Cuthbert Mayne and St Sapor.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Simon Lee, "Jacques-Louis David", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sally Dormer, "Book of Hours", 2pm. British Museum: Dora Thornton, "My cup floweth over": English Renaissance tableware", 11.30am. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Dr Margaret Byron, "Some Stay and Some Return: Caribbean migration outcomes", 1pm. Exeter University: Dr P Spanu, "Six Genes in Search of a Function", 4.15pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

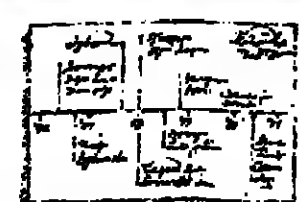
ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opens the new Museum of Scotland at the Royal Museum, Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, chairs a meeting of the Prince

Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and afterwards attends the Windsor Half Marathon Awards Ceremony, followed by Dinner for the Trustees, at the Guildhall, Windsor, Berkshire. The Princess Royal, Honorary Livestockman, Worshipful Company of Farmers, attends

their Court Meeting and Livestock Lunch at Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall, London EC1; as Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, attends the Annual Review Meeting at the Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, London WC1; as President, RedR - Engineers for Disaster Relief, attends

the Annual General Meeting at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London SW1; and as Patron, the British School of Osteopathy, attends a Dinner at St James's Palace. Princess Alexandra attends a dinner given by the Mentor Foundation at the Banqueting House, London SW1.



HISTORICAL NOTES

LYNDALL GORDON

Eliot's hellish heavenly creatures

IN 1993 a stranger wrote to me about his mother's involvement with the Lunacy Law reformers in the Thirties. Part of their work was to rescue people who were put away for life not because they were dangerous to society, but only because they were disturbed and difficult. This happened to T. S. Eliot's separated wife, Vivienne.

It was the law at the time that if a certified person could live undisturbed in normal society for six weeks, they were automatically de-certified. Marjorie Saunders had successfully sheltered one such escapee in her London house, when she was approached by a pharmacist, Louie Purdon, to help Mrs Eliot.

Mrs Saunders duly waited for Vivienne Eliot at the appointed place in Oxford Street - in vain, for Vivienne was "apprehended". From then on, the letter read, "Louie was not able to communicate with Vivienne. The 'home' she was in would not pass on telephone messages. Louie's letters were returned." This cut Vivienne off from her only friend, Eliot himself never visited his wife, though during the early years of their marriage, Vivienne had been his keenest co-thinker.

In Vivienne's nightmares, a glaring figure would appear in chains. In one of her talented stories, a paralysed woman next door rivets a dis-

contented wife. Vivienne shared with Eliot her susceptibility to horror: elevated in his own case as "a triumph; for the hatred of life is... a mystical experience". Publicly, he was able to mask its virulence with the mild manner of an English gentleman, wearing what Virginia Woolf called his "four-piece suit". With Vivienne, though, horror was unaccompanied. Her shrieks and claims disrupted polite gatherings around Eliot. All the same, he used her brilliantly in *The Waste Land* ("Stay with me. Speak to me... Do you see nothing? Are you alive, or not?"), but though he appropriated his voice, to live with it was hellish.

At length, in the summer of 1938, Vivienne was put away by her brother with the help of two doctors, brought in for one interview with this fearful woman who had long sensed her fate. Eliot was not on the scene, and there is no evidence he signed the certificate. But he didn't stop it - a moral issue he explores in his play, *The Family Reunion*, written at the same time.

That summer, Eliot kept himself at a distance in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, where he used to visit his first love, a Boston drama teacher called Emily Hale. Poised, well-conducted, articulate, Emily was transformed as a "Lady of silences" in Eliot's poetry, a heavenly Beatrice-figure who

presides over the soul's journey. The reality was rather different. A newly available batch of letters shows that at the height of her tie with Eliot, she had a breakdown in 1936 - bad enough for him to cross the Atlantic to stand by as she took up a post at Smith College. When Vivienne died in 1947, Emily expected Eliot to marry her, but, by then, she was long fixed in her chaste role in a poet's phantasmagoria.

In 1963, when Eliot came close to death, he asked a Faber colleague to burn Emily's letters. His own side of the correspondence, about a thousand letters, which he could not retrieve, is sequestered at his wish until 2019, the longest of all his bans.

One reason Eliot stands out from other poets of the 20th century is because he had a great subject, a search for perfection.

It has seemed incidental that the two women who offered the hell and heaven of this master-plan were kept under wraps. Eliot's secretiveness recalls that of Henry James when it came to two extraordinary women who had their home in his art. By silencing the partners of their private lives, both writers contrived the myth of solitary genius.

Lyndall Gordon is the author of *T. S. Eliot: an imperfect life* (Vintage, £8.99).

CASE SUMMARIES

30 NOVEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Insolvency

Re Piccadilly Property Management Ltd; Ch Div Judge Colyer QC sitting as a judge of the High Court 23 Nov 1998.

WHERE A company appealed to the judge against a compulsory winding-up order made by the Registrar after the failure of a Company Voluntary Arrangement, the judge also had jurisdiction to review or rescind the order under r 7.47 of the Insolvency Rules 1986. The existence of the jurisdiction did not, however, mean that it was good practice to bring a double-barrelled application, and that should only be done in the rarest of cases. *Brown (Robin Wayne) & Partners for the company; Gerard Van Tonder (David Hanson, Koster Jukes) for the company's supporting creditors; Rebecca Stubbs (R Solicitor) for the Inland Revenue; Peter Mitchell (Judge & Priestley) for a creditor supporting the Revenue.*

Damages

Dodd v Chief Constable of the Cheshire Constabulary; CA (Tuckey LJ, Cazalet J) 24 Nov 1998. WHERE A defendant had admitted liability and the court had entered interlocutory judgment with damages to be assessed, it was wrong for the judge to assess quantum using a cost/benefit analysis on an application to strike out brought by that defendant pursuant to CCR Ord 13, r 5. The case of *AB v John Wyeth & Brother Ltd* (No 2) (1993) BMLR 38 was an example of group litigation and should not

be seen as authority for the proposition that a judge should assess quantum in advance. The plaintiff was entitled to have his damages assessed after the hearing of evidence. *Peter Moss (Oliver & Co. Chester) for the plaintiff; Graham Wood (Clerk & Solicitor to the Cheshire Constabulary) for the defendant.*

Food safety

R v Secretary of State for Health, ex p Eastside Cheese Co; QBD (Crown Office List) (Moore J) 13 Nov 1998. THE FEAR as to the absence of adequate resources to support a local authority taking action under s 9 of the Food Safety Act 1990 was not a relevant consideration in deciding whether to issue an Emergency Control Order pursuant to s 13 of the Act which prohibited all commercial operations in relation to cheese produced by a manufacturer whose cheese had been responsible for a case of *E. coli* O157 food poisoning. *David Pickett QC, Richard Booth (Laurie Moran Arthur) for the applicant; Hugh Mercer (Clarke Wainott & Clarke) for the intervenor; Philip Havers QC, Neil Garnham (Solicitor, Department of Health) for the respondent.*

Undue influence

Virdee v Scottish Equitable Life plc; CA (Stuart-Smith, Mummery LJ) 23 Nov 1998. IN CONSIDERING whether a lender had constructive notice that a wife had signed a disclaimer postponing any interest she might have in a property under her husband's undue influence, the circumstances had to be viewed from the lender's perspective. A lender was acting reasonably

Pensions

City and County of Swansea v Johnson; Ch Div (Hart J) 23 Nov 1998. THE WORDS "qualifying service" in s 1 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 meant no more than "such service as qualifies" the earner for the benefit in question, and accordingly a scheme such as the injury allowance scheme in Pt 1 of the Local Government Superannuation Regulations 1986 was an occupational pension scheme. *Elizabeth Leving (Swansea City Council) for the authority; Paul Newman (Thompsons) for the claimant.*

Licensing

London Borough of Southwark v Allied Domecq Leisure Ltd; QBD (Div Ct) (Rose LJ, Mitchell J) 17 Nov 1998. IN ORDER to convict a company, by way of the doctrine of delegation, of an offence of permitting premises to be used for music entertainment licence being in force, it was necessary for that company to be charged with the same offence with which the manager of the premises had been charged. *Gillian Carrington (Legal Services, LB Southwark) for the applicant; the respondent was not represented and did not appear.*

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
aboulis, n.

OUTSIDE The changing-rooms at the London Library, the 18th-century scholar Keith Walker replied to my enquiry after his health, "I'm suffering from aboulia today." Reason enough, then, to slope off to lunch and discussion of *aboulia*, a word unknown to Johnson, who certainly suffered from it.

From the Greek, it means that loss of willpower which has one mooching about, and was first recorded in *Dunglison's Medical Lexi-*

con in the middle of the last century. But our talk was then scuppered by a striped-shirted banker at the next table, who, quaffing water, brayed of a meeting with the President of Citibank about the credit-card market. "We're anticipating sector response." Would that he suffered from *aboulia*.



Giving thanks for delaying the onset of Christmas

IF I am looking a little bloated and sluggish today, it is because it was Thanksgiving here on Thursday, and I haven't quite recovered yet.

I have a special fondness for Thanksgiving because, apart from anything else, when I was growing up it was the one time of year we ate in our house. All the other days of the year we just kind of put food into our mouths. My mother was not a great cook, you see.

Now please don't misunderstand me. My mother is a kindly, cheerful, saintly soul, and when she dies she will go straight to heaven, but believe me, no one is going to say, "Oh, thank goodness you're here, Mrs Bryson, can you fix us something to eat?"

To be perfectly fair to her, my mother had several strikes against her in the kitchen department. To begin with, she couldn't cook – always a bit of a handicap where the culinary arts are concerned. Mind you, she didn't especially want to be able to cook, and anyway she couldn't have even if she had wanted to.

She had a career, you see, which meant that she was always flying in the door two minutes before it was time to put dinner on the table. On top of this, she was a trifle absent-minded. She tended to confuse similarly coloured ingredients like sugar and salt, pepper and cinnamon, vinegar and maple syrup, cornflour and plaster of Paris, which often lent her dishes an unexpected dimension. Her particular speciality was to cook things while they were still in the packaging. I was almost full-grown before I realised that clingfilm wasn't a sort of chewy glaze. A combination of haste, forgetfulness and a charming incompetence where household appliances were concerned meant that most of her cooking experiences were punctuated with billows of smoke and occasional small explosions. In our house, as a rule of thumb, it was time to eat when the firemen departed.

Strangely, this suited my father. My father had what you might call rudimentary tastes in food. His palate really only

responded to three flavours: salt, ketchup and burnt. His idea of an outstanding meal was a plate that contained something brown and unidentifiable, something green and unidentifiable, and something charred. I am quite sure that if you slow-baked, say, a loaf and covered it sufficiently with ketchup, he would have said, "Hey, this is very tasty."

Good food, in short, was something that was wasted on him, and my mother worked hard for years to see that he was never disappointed. But on Thanksgiving, by some kind of miracle, she pulled out all the stops and outdid herself. She would call us to the table and there we would find, awaiting our unaccustomed delectation, a sumptuous spread of food – an enormous and glistening turkey, baskets of cornbread and warm rolls, vegetables that you could actually recognise, a tureen of cranberry sauce, a bowl of exquisitely mashed potatoes, a saucer of plump sausages, and much else. We would eat as if we had not eaten for a year (as, in effect, we had



BRYSON'S AMERICA

not) and then she would present the *pièce de résistance* – a golden, flaky-crust pumpkin pie surrounded by a Matterhorn of whipped cream. It was perfect. It was heaven.

And it has left me with the profoundest joy and gratitude for this most wonderful of holidays – for Thanksgiving is the most splendid of occasions, and make no mistake.

Most Americans, I believe, think that Thanksgiving has always been held on the last Thursday of November and that it has been going on for ever, or at least as near for ever as

anything gets in America.

In fact, although the Mayflower pilgrims did indeed hold a famous feast in 1621 to thank the local Indians for their help in getting them through their first difficult year and showing them how to make popcorn and so on (for which I am grateful even yet), there is no record of when that feast was held. Given the climate of New England, it was unlikely to have been late November. In any case, for the next 242 years Thanksgiving as an event was hardly noted. The first official celebration wasn't held until 1863 – and then in August, of all months. The next year President Abraham Lincoln moved it arbitrarily to the last Thursday in November – no one seems to recall now why a Thursday, or why so late in the year, and there it has stayed ever since.

Thanksgiving is wonderful, and for all kinds of reasons. To begin with, it has the commendable effect of staving off Christmas. Whereas in Britain the Christmas shopping season seems nowadays to kick off

round about the August bank holiday, Christmas mania doesn't traditionally begin in America until the last weekend in November.

Moreover, Thanksgiving remains a pure holiday, largely unsullied by commercialisation. It involves no greetings cards, no trees to trim, no perplexed bunt through drawers and cupboards for decorations. At Thanksgiving all you do is sit at a table and try to get your stomach into the shape of a beach ball, and then go and watch a game of American football on the TV. This is my kind of holiday. But perhaps the nicest, and certainly the noblest, aspect of Thanksgiving is that it gives you a formal, official occasion to give thanks for all those things for which you should be grateful. Speaking personally, I have a great deal to be thankful for: I have a wife and children I am crazy about, I have my health, and retain full command of most of my faculties (albeit not always simultaneously). I live in a time of peace and prosperity. Ronald Reagan will never be president

again. These are things for which I am grateful, and I am pleased to let the record show it.

The only downside is that the passage of Thanksgiving marks the inescapable onset of Christmas. Any day now – any moment – my dear wife will appear beside me and announce that the time has come to shift my distended stomach and get out the festive decorations. This is a dread moment for me and with good reason, since it involves physical exertion, wobbly ladders, live electricity, wriggling ascents through a loft hatch, and the collaborative direction of said dear missus – all things with the power to do me a serious and permanent injury. I have a terrible feeling that today may be that day. Still, it hasn't happened yet and for that, of course, I give my sincerest thanks of all.

Extracted from 'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday, price £16.99. Available at all major bookshops or by mail order on 01624 675137

Vanishings that haunt Ireland

The disappearance of six young Irishwomen over recent years has prompted fears that a serial killer is on the loose. Or are the Irish police simply incompetent? By Mary Braid

It was the disappearance in daylight of student teacher Deirdre Jacob, 18, on 28 July this year, that finally forced the beleaguered Irish Garda's hand. Deirdre, back in Ireland for the holidays from a west London college, had spent the afternoon in the centre of her home town, Newbridge, in county Kildare, south-west of Dublin. At lunchtime she visited her grandmother's shop. The attractive dark-haired teenager was then captured on a security video at the Allied Irish Bank at around 2.20pm sending a £180 bank draft for a flat share for the new academic year.

Ten minutes later she visited the post office and then chatted to a friend on the street before making her way down a narrow, tree-lined country road, past the local evangelical church. The last sighting of her was about 3pm just 300 yards from her parents' front door. Then, the teenager with everything to live for vanished.

Irish police announced two months ago that Deirdre's disappearance was to be investigated alongside the cases of at least five other young women who had gone missing over the past five years. Officers appeared to be finally taking seriously what locals had believed for years: that a serial killer is on the loose in Ireland.

The attempt to link the cases has caused endless media excitement and mobilised a public which believed the Garda had been blind to the obvious for too long. However, the establishment of a new Tracing, Reviewing and Collating Evidence Unit (Trace), led by John Hickey, an FBI-trained Assistant Commissioner, is not without its critics, not least among the families of the missing.

The new Trace unit has been set up at Naas, south-west of Dublin, at the centre of a 30-mile circle within which four of the six women went missing. The disappearances are recorded on maps and charts lining the walls.

The first woman to go missing was Annie McCarrick, 26, an Irish American

who was studying in Dublin. She disappeared during a trip to the mountains, south of the capital, on 26 March 1993, sparking one of the largest missing persons investigations in Irish history.

US ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and vice-president Al Gore lobbied the Irish government on behalf of Annie's family. Ms McCarrick's father John, a former New York cop, was scathing about the investigation by Irish police and offered \$150,000 reward for information. Mr McCarrick also hired a private detective to search for his daughter. But five years on no positive leads have emerged and the disappearance of Annie, his only child, has broken his marriage, his health, and the bank.

After Ms McCarrick came beautician Jojo Dullard, 21, who disappeared on the evening of November 9 1995, outside a phone box at Moone, Co Kildare, while hitchhiking home from Dublin after missing the last bus. Jojo was talking to her best friend when she hurriedly hung up saying a lift had arrived. She was never seen again.

Ms Jacob, Ms Dullard and Ms McCarrick went missing in roughly the same area as part-time model Fiona Pender, 25, who disappeared from Tullamore, County Offaly, on August 23 1996 when she was seven and a half months pregnant.

But also included in the core police investigation are Ciara Breen, 17, who disappeared from Dundalk in Co Kildare's northern border on 17 February 1997 and Fiona Sinnott, 19, a single mother who went missing in February this year from County Wexford in the south.

In line with FBI theory that hard-to-solve cases need a fresh eye, six detectives unassociated with the previous investigations, have been drafted in to Naas to work full-time on the six core cases, and at least six other murders and disappearances of women stretching back as far as 1979. As well as reviewing the records of known sex offenders, the detectives are reviewing each disappearance in chronological order, seeking "common threads".

Assistant Commissioner Hickey, much admired for his successful recent hunt for the killers of Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, admits that the only link between the women at the moment is that all six were attractive and young and disappeared inexplicably and without trace.

But that does not stop him giving serious consideration to the theory that a serial killer is responsible. "The Garda doesn't want to scare the public," he says. "But it would be foolish to ignore the possibility."

It is early days – and no breaks have yet been announced – but the unit clearly has its work cut out. While the police, and most of the relatives, accept that the missing women are dead, and almost certainly murdered, there are no bodies or crime scenes to examine. The serial killer, if he exists, has left no signature that would offer clues, only empty phone boxes and deserted country roads.

The relatives of the missing, meanwhile, have been divided over their views of Trace. Those who bought into the serial-killer theory are pleased the police are taking it seriously. But other relatives say the unit is a smoke screen for weaknesses in the way missing cases are investigated. It is those weaknesses they insist that have prevented breaks in any of the original separate investigations. They feel the unit is a sop to families' demands for a permanent national system for the cross-filing of information on missing women.

On a cattle farm, at the end of a muddy track in County Kilkenny, Jojo Dullard's sister, Mary Phelan, 46, is among the most dismayed. In the past three years, Mrs Phelan, a 4ft 10ins farmer's wife with no previous campaigning experience, has become the bain of her local police force with her unrelenting determination to find Jojo's body and her killer.

Once the police scaled down their searches, her personal battle became a national crusade. She has co-founded a national organisation for the relatives of 84



Clockwise from top left: Annie McCarrick, Ciara Breen, Deirdre Jacob, Fiona Pender, Fiona Sinnott and Jojo Dullard

people who have gone missing in Ireland since 1990 and is now its spokesperson.

Mary Phelan helped raise her little sister after their parents died. For her and her husband Martin, normal life ceased the night Jojo rushed from the phone box in Moone for a lift. The Phelans still work their little farm, but Jojo occupies their every spare moment. In the corner of the kitchen, oddly out of place below a portrait of Jesus lit by a single orange bulb, sits a fax and copier. Among the coffee cups, the kitchen table is strewn with documents and newspaper cuttings. The couple are working on the latest in a string of publicity campaigns to keep Jojo's case alive.

"I knew in my heart the moment Jo went missing that that was it. It was totally out of character for her to disappear," but she says the police refused to listen and vital investigating time was lost. When the case was opened, the Phelans complain the police were less than thorough.

Relations between the Phelans and the police have hit rock bottom. In the early days of the investigation, a local officer gave them the name of the main police suspect

who had allegedly given officers conflicting statements. The Phelans now believe that a complex conspiracy has been hatched to protect him.

Two hours drive north, Josephine Pender, 49, sits in the dying light of a winter's afternoon, looking at old pictures of her daughter, Fiona, modelling in a brides magazine. She is kinder to the police, sympathising that when her daughter disappeared "where to start an investigation was a problem". Fiona's boyfriend was arrested but never charged. Mrs Pender says she knew quite quickly that Fiona was dead. Excited about her coming baby, she had no reason to disappear.

While she has no complaints about the police, she also believes the answer to her daughter's disappearance lies locally, not with some ritualistic, roving killer. She sees an irony in the possibility that setting up Trace might allow real killers to go free. But she welcomes any fresh police interest. Along the path, however wayward, she hopes some new clue may yet emerge.

"I remember Fiona and I watching the appeal for information about Jojo Dullard

on television when she went missing," she says. "Now I am in the same position. You cannot imagine the pain."

Mrs Pender suffered four miscarriages before she had Fiona and her two brothers. She has only one child left. Her eldest boy Martin died in a motorbike accident just over a year before Fiona's disappearance. "When Fiona went missing we went to all the places that meant something to her. To the spot where Martin died, to his grave in Tullow and to the hill where all that was left of his bike was buried. Now all I want is to put Fiona down beside her brother."

In the face of such suffering the Garda have delivered few answers. According to the cynics, Trace has been set up to get the police off the hook. "Nothing really links these cases except that the police failed to solve them," says one Dublin journalist.

The Trace detectives, meanwhile, press on, backed by many ordinary, anxious Irish people. A string of attempted abductions this week of young women on the outskirts of Dublin only reinforced their view that a serial killer, at large for as long as two decades, is still out there.

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

No.16 GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

The facts

- At least 60 per cent of processed foods may contain soya.
- 15 per cent of soya is genetically modified.
- MP's in the House of Commons have banned the use of GM food in their restaurants.
- A Mori survey revealed that 61 per cent of Britons regard GM food as unacceptable and 77 per cent support a ban on the commercial growing of GM crops until more is known about health risks and environmental impact.
- All new Iceland and Asda own-label products do not contain GM ingredients.
- The Vegetarian Society has banned the use of GM ingredients from products bearing the society's V approved "by the Vegetarian Society" symbol.
- Tesco is the first British retailer to label all GM ingredients in its own-brand products, including soya oil

and lecithin, which do not need labelling under European Union rules.

The good news

Genetic engineering alters the DNA of crops by transferring genes from one organism to another. By genetic engineering food, scientists have extended the shelf life of foods and created crops that are resistant to pesticides and herbicides. For example, fish have a genetic characteristic that helps them survive in very cold water. That gene can now be inserted into a tomato to make it frost-resistant, meaning bigger and better tomato harvests... supposedly.

The bad news

No one is sure about the health effects of eating GM food but there are fears about its safety and its effect on the environment. Though genetically modifying food can eliminate weaknesses in a crop,

sometimes it can introduce weaknesses into the food chain too.

Seeds genetically engineered to kill bad pests may kill the good pests too, eg potatoes which were engineered to kill aphids also killed beneficial ladybirds. If GM crops fail, then they fail in a spectacular way and they could threaten the entire food chain.

In the US, thousands of hectares of Monsanto's cotton seeds failed in 1997 and 1 million acres of GM cotton which was supposed to be resistant to bollworm was destroyed by bollworm in 1996.

In Nebraska, cattle farmers faced a crisis when their cows stopped grazing because their corn fields had been growing GM corn and they didn't like the taste. Non GM crops cannot be prevented from cross-pollinating with GM crops, meaning that farmers who don't agree with GM have no way of preventing their crops being contaminated.

Last year Guy Watson, an organic farmer from Devon, took the Government to court to stop trials of GM maize crops which were being grown next to his organic sweetcorn. Though the judiciary ruled that the Government acted unlawfully in allowing the trials, they refused to rule that the GM trials should be halted. If the suspected health risks associated with GM are proven, even people who choose to buy organic may unsuspectingly be eating GM food. There is also the risk that the genes will transfer to soil bacteria and then to insects, birds, animals and water.

Health risks

Because GM food has only been around for three years it is difficult to predict its impact, but the recent experience of BSE shows how a relatively small change in food production can have a devastating impact on safety which may take

years to show up. Austria and Luxembourg are trying to stop imports of genetically-engineered maize which contains an antibiotic resistance gene. Both countries fear that eating the maize will lead to more resistance to antibiotics in humans and animals. In the US a disease called EMS was eventually linked to a food supplement derived from genetically-modified bacteria. But, 36 people had died and 1,500 were disabled.

Labelling

Consumers should be allowed to choose whether they want to eat GM food but manufacturers can escape labelling regulations by mixing conventional and GM ingredients. Though 60 per cent of processed food contains soya, because US food producers mix GM soya with regular soya, they don't have to say it's genetically modified on the label. GM soya is found in the following products

- Vegetable protein, hydrolysed vegetable protein and protein isolate which are found in sausages, gravy powder, soups, coffee creamers, frozen desserts, stock-cubes, bacon and ham brine.
- Lecithin, an emulsifying agent used to make chocolate, margarine, bread, cakes and biscuits.
- Vegetable oil, vegetable fat, hydrogenated vegetable oils are found in many foods including cakes, biscuits, crisps, fast food.
- Soya flour; soya flakes, soya milks, soya baby milk and tofu should be properly labelled as soya. Textured vegetable protein which is found in meat products, meat substitutes and vegetarian dishes.

If you are concerned

Contact your local MP to ask why GM foods are being allowed on to the market without comprehensive testing or proper food labelling.

Ring the Monsanto Soya Information Centre 0345-023288 to ask them why they refuse to segregate their soybeans meaning potential contamination of 60 per cent of the foods we buy.

Write to the manager of your local supermarket and ask them what they intend to do about labelling all genetically engineered foods and ingredients.

Study food labels carefully and buy organic if you can afford it.

Avoid soya-based foods especially soya baby milk.

Useful numbers

Genetics Forum - 0171-638 0606
The Food Commission - 0171-837 2250
The Soil Association - 0171-914 3449
The Consumers Association - 0171-630 6000

Recommended reading: 'Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life', published by Penguin at £9.99

Christmas

Again. These are things for which I am grateful, and I am pleased to let the record show it. The only downside is that the passage of Christmas gives me the opportunity to say how much I love my dear wife and how much I love my dear children. Any day now, my dear wife will appear beside me and announce that the time has come to shut my distended stomach and get out the festive decorations. The is a dread moment for me and with good reason, since it involves physical exertion, wobbly ladder, two electrical wires, and the collaboration of things with the power to do me serious and permanent injury. I have a terrible feeling that one day I will die. Still, it hasn't happened yet and for that, of course, I give my sincerest thanks to all.

Extracted from Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday, price £16.99. Available at all major bookshops or by mail order on 01845 633111.

Are two mums better than one?



Flis says: "Some heterosexuals think it is wrong for lesbians to have children. My answer to them is it is up to society not to discriminate. The question they need to ask is whether someone is a good parent" Andrew Hasson

Flis's story

We thought a lot about having children as a lesbian couple but we would not have gone ahead unless we had known other couples in the same situation. We felt it was important for the children to know there were other families like ours. It also felt important for the children to have someone they could talk to, so they wouldn't spend their lives searching endlessly for some idealised father figure.

At the moment Jamie is a fairly typical boy. He loves playing with guns and swords and Lizzie is beginning to play with dolls. Whatever else we bring to parenting, we haven't got round to gendered behaviour.

We don't censor ourselves at home so Jamie knows the words gay and lesbian but he has never used them. I don't think he would make much sense of them. Sexual orientation doesn't mean anything to a child of his age.

I think young children tend to see adults only in relation to themselves but he is starting to notice different family arrangements. He

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Flis, 31, lectures in social sciences and Hazel, 40, is a nurse. They have lived together for the past 13 years and have two children. Both were fathered by a long-standing gay friend, Chris, who sees the children every day. While Lizzie, aged two, is too young to understand family arrangements, five-year-old Jamie is starting to question why he has two mummies and a daddy

doesn't say "two mummies are best", but then he doesn't say "I want to live with a mummy and a daddy".

Jamie has asked about babies and how they are made. We have told him men have seed and women have eggs and you have to mix the two together to make a baby. And that is what his daddy did for us.

When he started school last year, we told the headteacher and his reception teacher about our family set-up and they were fine. We talked to his new teacher again in September because I wanted to impress on him the importance of reflecting the whole range of family forms during lessons - whether it is single parents, extended families or gay parents. I don't want Jamie to feel excluded because his family does not fit the "norm". Jamie has made new friends at school and so we have had to "come out" to their parents. On

the whole, we haven't had any negative reactions.

We have never had a case of a child not being allowed to come and play. You could be paranoid and worry if someone says their child is busy when you ask them round, but I really don't get that feeling.

Some heterosexuals think it is wrong for gays or lesbians to have children and say it is not "fair" on the children. My answer to them is - you are the people who can make it fair. The responsibility lies with society not to discriminate. The question they need to ask is whether someone is a good parent. Otherwise what they are saying is that they cannot see beyond our sexuality.

At this point, I can honestly say that I won't mind how the children turn out as long as they are confident and happy in their sexuality. If they feel they are gay or lesbian, having us as parents might help. But it

also might make them confused about who they are doing it for, so it is very important to let them work it out for themselves.

Hazel's story

I wanted to have children from the age of two. I was about that age when my mother fostered a little girl who was younger than me. I thought we had her for keeps and I was so upset when she had to leave.

I always imagined I would get married and have children once I found Mr Right. When I was 25, I fell in love with a woman and thought, "oh no, this means I can't have children". For some of my family, it certainly meant I couldn't and shouldn't have children. But a friend told me lots of lesbian couples had children and I thought, thank

goodness, my life is not over. When Flis and I talked about having children, plan A was we would have one baby each. I tried first and became pregnant after about a year. But I had a miscarriage at 10 weeks and then an ectopic pregnancy. I was told I only had a very slim chance of getting pregnant unless it was with fertility treatment.

That seemed unnecessary when Flis was willing to try for us. I would have liked to have experienced having a baby but this is a very close second best.

We do worry about what it will be like for the children. When Jamie started school, we had to fill in a form about who had parental responsibility. I have a residence order through the courts so we put all our names down and made it clear to the school what the set-up was.

The funny thing is Jamie notices if children haven't got a father - he

finds that more remarkable than having two mothers. A lot of the children's friends, as soon as they cotton on to our family, said they wanted two mummies too - to them, it is just two of something you like. Jamie and Lizzie also know other children with two mothers so it is not that remarkable to them.

I don't think it is any easier for a heterosexual couple to explain to their children how they were conceived than it is to explain about artificial insemination. It may be easier for us because we can show our sperm and eggs.

Some of our lesbian friends' children call them both mummy with their name after it. We were very unclear about what the children should call us but it just evolved by default. Jamie had a made-up name for me and then started calling me Hazel when he was about four.

I don't know what it will be like for

our children when they are teenagers or in their early 20s. I just hope when they discover aspects of themselves, whether straight or gay, they will be able to fulfil themselves in a way that does not hurt them or anyone around them.

It can be a dreadful world for young people coming out. I've been researching the mental health care problems of young gays and lesbians and they are so vulnerable, with higher rates of attempted suicide and all sorts of other problems.

One of the worst things for them is the feeling that their life is over, that they cannot fulfil their aspirations, that they cannot have children, that they have no future.

As with all parents, I want my children's lives to be straightforward and without any extra burdens. But if I could take a pill tomorrow that would make me straight, I wouldn't - my life brings me a lot of joy.

INTERVIEWS BY GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

Flis, Hazel and Chris tell their story in 'Pink Parents', part of the 'Modern Times' series to be broadcast tomorrow (Tuesday 1 Dec) on BBC 2 at 9.30pm

Life's a Sunset Beach

continued from page 1

Arvin Mitchelson, described as "the nastiest, most vicious, custody case this town has ever seen". Friedkin said Lesley-Anne as an alcoholic, promiscuous coke fiend, he said he had threatened to kill her on more than one occasion, and had used a gun in front of Jack. After spending millions of dollars each, they eventually agreed to a pre-trial settlement and joint custody, but only after Lesley-Anne had been vetted by a team of shrinkers.

She says the shrinkers ultimately declared her "a super-intelligent woman" which, she adds, "was very funny, because I lied to them every step of the way. They did these psych tests on me. You know, the ink-blot tests. And they'd say, what does this one look like? I wasn't about to say it looks like a woman having it off, was I? So I said, hhh, it's a beautiful butterfly." What did they conclude about you emotionally? That I'm a complete hysteric! And she might be, although perhaps not dangerously so. Certainly, she doesn't seem entirely whole somehow. I think she is intelligent, yes, but am not sure she's entirely all there.

She was born in Wandsworth, south London. Her father, James, apparently a very shaggy-looking man, was caretaker of the local Territorial Army Centre. Her mother, Isobel, stayed at home to bring up the two girls, although did a bit of cleaning on the side when things got tight. Lesley-Anne, however, craved a more colourful life. "I had these cousins in LA, who'd send me care packages of clothes they'd grown out of - the most amazingly beautiful dresses that were totally alien to, say, going to Clark's

for another pair of lace-ups in black, black or black. So I always had this desire, and image of myself, leading this fantasy life."

She started modelling at 10, was drinking gin and orange and chugging at 12, started appearing nude in films at 14, and was living with Bruce at 15. I ask her if she thinks her childhood finished too early. She says, "I don't think it ever started!" What do you mean? "I just never felt like a child. I always had this desire to be a grown-up. I never had friends. I never felt I belonged. I was always happiest on my own, inventing things, finding secret places. If I'd also mutilated small animals, I think I'd have the perfect psychological profile of a serial killer." Did you ever, for example, have birthday parties? "Perhaps once. Although, then again, I might just be jealously appropriating someone else's." Did you like school? "Hated it. In particular, I hated Miss Harden, the maths teacher, who had hairy armpits and never wore long sleeves."

The trouble with Lesley-Anne, perhaps, is that she focused for so long on achieving things outwardly, via her own admittedly fabulous looks, that something within her just shrivelled and died. When, later, I ask her what attracted her to Friedkin, she says: "Money, talent, power." And you find those things attractive? "I did then. I'd met men with one or other of those things but, until Bill, I'd never met a man with all three." And the combination was lethal? "Lethal is the right word. That man was MERCURY IN MY BLOOD!" She can seem quite hysterical at times, yes.

Her first modelling assignment was for school uniforms, then it was bonnets, then it was a commercial in Barbados for

an American soap powder - "and I thought, this is the life". She hooked up with Bruce at a party thrown by Ava Gardner. "He walked into the room in a white coat. I was in love. I didn't have a comb, so I ran into the lavatory and used Ava's toothbrush on my hair and lashes." He assumed she was at least 18. He, nearly 30 then, wasn't best pleased to find out she was only 15. "He called up all his friends, and said: 'What am I going to do?' He went through a difficult time. My parents called him all sorts of names. Bruce would pack my bags and send me back to mum and dad. 'I want to be with you,' I would scream."

He proposed to her just the once, when she was 16. "But I said no. I didn't believe in marriage then." He never proposed again, although they stayed together until she was 24. She doesn't see him now. "He's become such a waste, hasn't he? He lives in place near Wales that begins with H." Hereford? "Yes, that's it. He has so much to play for, but just tucks himself away." Perhaps he just doesn't want the whole LA shebang? "Oh, yes. Perhaps."

She says she is happy now, with Donnie and George. She doesn't mind that she never really achieved anything after *Upstairs, Downstairs* apart from a number of lacklustre films culminating in *Death Wish V* with Charles Bronson. "I'm happy to have survived, to still be here," she says. She has, yes, had her run-ins with drink and drugs but never, she insists, excessively so, and certainly not now. She adds that it's now time for her afternoon nap. "I'm very tired, darling." Bye, Olivia. I say. And I hope you get out of that stuck elevator shortly. "Oh stop!" she pleads again.

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Legal Notices

HART PRODUCTS LIMITED

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 14 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of A 11 (London) & Co, 21 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on 11 December 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the sale of the assets of the Company.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
SIMON RHODES Director
Dated 19 November 1998

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1998-99

TRANSPORT SALARIED STAFFS ASSOCIATION
(AMENDMENT OF RULES ETC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by the Transport Salaried Staffs Association for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To amend the rules of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association so that further amendments can be made permitting income from investments which would otherwise be directed to its Provident Benefit Fund to be applied for purposes other than the provision of provident benefits.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of 50p per copy at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliament, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1999 if the Bill originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1999 if it originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliament, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 30th day of November 1998

SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House,
Fulwood Place,
London WC1V 6HG,
Parliamentary Agents

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COCKNEY: The Court House,
Stuart Street, London
E1 6ST
HEARING DATE/TIME:
Wednesday 16 December 1998
at 10.00am

PREMISES: Medway Restaurant
and Travel Inn, The Branch,
Corner of Gypsy Lane and
Osborne Road, Luton
LU1 3JF
APPLICANT: Paul Harvey
Wilcock

ADDRESS: 6 Pinnacles Close,
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG4 7JF
TRADE OR CALLING AREA
Manager

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant intends to apply to the Licensing Sub-committee of the Luton District Council for the said Licence to be held at the place and time shown above for the period of 12 months commencing on 1st January 1999. The Applicant is authorised to sell by retail intoxicating liquor at all depositories, but resumption on or at the above premises.

DATED 24 November 1998

PASNER & CO
Bouvier House, 154 Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3DF
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for
and on behalf of the Applicant

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
MAINMARK LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.110 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Stephen Franklin of Pinnacles Close, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3JF, is appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 19 November 1998 in the members and creditors.

Dated 23 November 1998

STEPHEN FRANKLIN Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
LEHARR (UK) LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.110 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Stephen Franklin of Pinnacles Close, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3JF, is appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 19 November 1998 in the members and creditors.

Dated 24 November 1998

STEPHEN FRANKLIN Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
ABBEYCAST LIMITED
IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.110 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that Stephen Franklin of Pinnacles Close, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3JF, is appointed Liquidator of the above named Company on 19 November 1998 in the members and creditors.

Dated 23 November 1998

STEPHEN FRANKLIN Liquidator

THIS WAS THE
WEEK THAT WAS

Today In 1844 the first detective story hit Britain, in a magazine that included "The Purloined Letter". It was by Edgar Allan Poe but 'tec stories were later killed off as a classy genre by lesser breeds (it was Agatha Christie who dunnit).

Tomorrow In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* was premiered in New York. Although lasting nearly four hours, it is like a trailer compared with the longest movie, *The Cure for Insomnia*, which clocked up a massive 85 hours - only 80 in the shortened version.

Wednesday Edmond Rostand died in 1918, having written the play *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which spawned a film with Gerard Depardieu and his nasal extension. The real Cyrano de B. was himself a playwright with a nose which launched a 1,000 fights.

Thursday The good news for literature in 1926 was that Agatha Christie mysteriously disappeared from her Surrey home; the bad news was that she turned up 10 days later under an assumed name in a Yorkshire hotel.

Friday In 1988 Beethoven's nine symphonies were played at the Royal Festival Hall, with three orchestras - and one conductor.

Saturday Walt Disney was born in 1901. Laugh-O-Gram, his first company, went bankrupt but he soon conquered the (Disney)world when he started again with brother Roy and an animator with a name like something out of *The Jungle Book*. Unhappily, in 1971, Mozart died from typhus and was buried in an unmarked grave - but he was spared the humiliation of seeing himself portrayed in the play and film, *Amadeus*.

Sunday First recording of the human voice made by Thomas Edison in 1877, when he recited "Mary had a Little Lamb" into his phonograph. The jazz pianist, Dave Brubeck, who singlehandedly - well, double-handedly - justifies the invention of the gramophone, was born in 1920.

JONATHAN SALE

The RSC will need all its finest technical magic to bring 'Narnia' to life on stage. By Sarah Hemming

Lions, witches and hitches

In a corner of the RSC props workshop, the designer Anthony Ward and his colleagues on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* are talking magic. Today's problem: how to transform a witch into a boulder.

In the book, it's easy. A flick of the witch's wand, and bingo - flesh becomes stone.

On stage, such magic needs a little more technical back-up. They've already dealt with the moment when the witch conjures a goblet of cordial and a box of Turkish Delight out of nowhere, using special trap doors and tiny gizmos that will release the goodies on cue. But turning an actress into a rock is more demanding.

It is not just the magic moments that make staging CS Lewis's children's classic a challenge, however. Far more daunting is the creation of the book's peculiar enchanted atmosphere - coupled with the fact that you are entering the perilous territory at the reader's imagination.

Lewis's story of the four evacuated children who stumble on Narnia at the back of a wardrobe is a memorable read. Anyone who encountered it as a child will remember that scalp-pricking moment when Lucy first pushes through the coats in the wardrobe and feels fur give way to fir.

Most will have a picture in their mind's eye of the bewitched forest where it is always winter. Ward's Narnia has to live up to that mental landscape.

"I tried to tune into how I felt about it as a child, rather than as a grown-up," he says. "I loved that almost eerie atmosphere that unsettles you and enchants you."

In a sense, Ward is accustomed to dealing with transformed worlds, having provided inspired sets for some of Shakespeare's most magical plays - the most recent being Adrian Noble's production of *The Tempest*. Together, Noble and Ward have developed a distinct style: Ward designing a beautiful but very succinct set that supports Noble's uncluttered staging. Ward sees *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, again directed by Noble, as fitting into the pattern, and again, his first instinct was that less would be more. But this time he had to suggest a surreal atmosphere, while also handling the fact that Lewis is very fussy in his concrete descriptions at the Narnian forest. Too abstract a design could confuse the audience. To begin with, Ward was flummoxed.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, how can I get all this world on stage?'" he admits. "I started off creating cone shapes made out of silk that would look like trees covered in snow. They were able to move, because you have a lot of journeys in the show. But the story moves so quickly

that they became incredibly cumbersome. I started having to choreograph the set, which was really, really unhelpful.

"At the end of the day, the simpler you are, the more the characters and the story fill the space."

In the end, a chance discovery provided inspiration. "Knocking around in my studio I had some sea fern, which is very brittle. We were looking at photographs of winter landscapes where everything was covered in frost.

"We got the sea fern out and had a look at it in the model and it really seemed to deliver that story."

On the final design, the cold brittle fingers of the sea fern reach into the stage space from around a curved proscenium, giving the whole the beautiful, magical quality of a winter scene in a snow globe. It suggests a frozen landscape while leaving room for the audience's imagination. On the full-sized set, of course, the delicate fronds of sea fern will be metal, backed by a mesh that has been covered in a latex rubbery skin and matted with a heat gun.

For the technical departments, working on the design has provided a chance to let their hair down. This is the first Christmas show in Stratford for 30 years, and it makes a change from staging the Bard. A touch of Narnia has infected all the workshops. Parked in the props department is the witch's sledge, a fantastical winged chariot made of curled aluminium. In the wardrobe, eagles' feathery legs and beavers' coats peep out from the rails of costumes. Sequestered in a fitting room lies the witch's white cloak, a vast, long-haired beast trussed up like a dead Yeti. It moans over everything, so has to be kept in solitary confinement. The shoe department, usually the repository for boots, huckles and armour, has had to come up with cloven hooves, centaurs' wings, and giants' legs.

But it is the hat department that has really come into its own. This small group of industrious women, usually responsible for bonnets and caps, has created a huge array of extravagant headgear. They have made ethereal tree spirits' head-dresses, a unicorn's horn, modelled, rather poetically, on a melted advent candle; and the witch's head-dress, a pointy, frosty tiara made from ostrich quills and optical fibres that shoot back from the actress's temples. "It makes a change from Tudor caps," says Elaine Moore, head of hats.

The most difficult task has been Aslan's mane. Aslan, the lion who breaks the witch's reign in Narnia, is not just a big cat, but also a regal and mysterious being. Lewis intended the story to be a Christian allegory in which Aslan is a representation of Christ.



In an example of the designers' non-literal interpretation, the beavers have fringed trousers instead of furry ones John Lawrence

The mane is not just a mane, but an aura - a halo even.

"We started off with lots of quills and feathers mixed with twine to get a light bulky appearance," says Moore. "But the yards and twines made it too earthy and heavy. Now we're trying a mixture of feathers and fur."

Aslan has been a headache for Ward. He wanted to avoid the caddy, fancy dress effect, yet to produce a recognisable lion. "One help was discovering that Patrice Naaimbana was going to play that part," he says. He's got a very powerful presence, which made me realise that the costume doesn't have to be the powerful thing - you've got somebody strong playing the lion, now

dress them as simply as you can.

No hairy breeches, then, but gold velvet trousers, and Naaimbana won't have to mumble through a furry face. Solving Aslan determined Ward's approach to all the animals. The story calls for beavers, fawns, squirrels, and wolves, not to mention centaurs, dryads, and a unicorn. Again, with the set, Ward realised that suggestion was the key: finding a way of giving the actor the same quality as the animal, without replicating it literally.

"We've hardly used any fur at all," he points out. "For the beavers, for example, we've used fringed trousers instead of furry ones."

One advantage of this non-literal representation is that it allows for

the interpretation that Narnia arises from the children's imaginations - a possibility that comes into its own with the witch's army of baddies. Here the "Efreet, Sprites, Orkies, Wooses, Ettins" and their pals become sinister looking bogies in black gas masks, reminding us that the children have been evacuated from horrors more real than those in Narnia.

Adrian was very keen that the war is ever present as a frightening thing going on in the real world. Ward explains, "So Maugram, the witch's chief of police, has a Gestapo feel to him, and when Mr Tumms's house is destroyed it looks like an air raid. We came across a picture of a group of people all wearing gas

masks and thought what a brilliant idea for the baddies."

Back in the workshops, there are more magic hitches to overcome. The revolving wardrobe, which is to spin the children in and out of Narnia, is in danger of doing too many revolutions and overwinding its mechanism, presumably stranding them in no-man's land.

Ward looks a little weary. When it comes to magic, it seems technical wizardry just can't keep up with spells.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe previews from 24 Nov and opens on 1 Dec at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (01783 293623).

The loon with all the tunes

OVER THE past couple of years, it seems that Clint Boon, the former leader and keyboard player of the Inspiral Carpets, has been toodling away in Rochdale, formulating keyboard-led pop spiced with humour that he suggests should be filed under "Space Opera".

A couple of immediately catchy singles released this year on the tiny Rabid Badger imprint were supposed to mark a low profile re-entry into the pop world, but they gained significant airplay on Radio 1FM. Reams of reviews also saw critics openly admitting they'd been taken by surprise by the freshness of Boon's tongue-in-cheek pop with garage rock and psychedelic attachments.

The Inspiral always had a sense of humour lurking somewhere, and now that he has

POP

CLINT BOON
EXPERIENCE
THE GARAGE, LONDON N1

been given a free rein, Boon has created a pleasantly comic showpiece. Before the band came on, the clues were there: a banner with the Boonies Tunics' logo, a cardboard cut-out of Boon himself, and his organ placed centre stage, fronted by a moose head lit up by fairy lights. Boon entered more in the manner of a stand-up comic than a pop star, encouraging the audience to whoop and cheer before he then unbuttoned his shirt to reveal that famous Inspiral T-shirt with the image of a moose bearing the legend "Cool as Fuck".

Sporting short hair, an upgrade on his previous band's

moptop fashion, he also showed in the first number that his own singing was an improvement on that of Inspiral's vocalist, Tom Hinkley. The gig really didn't lift off until the third song and current single "White No Sugar", a number about Internet café culture graced with lines such as "creation was an anagram of reaction" and the splendid ending of "Mr Boon play that tune!". Mr Boon acknowledged the cheers and smiling faces by standing up and showing off that T-shirt again. He followed swiftly with the even better "Only One Way I Can Go", an exuberant pop classic enriched by wild klaxon sounds. The crowd seem to be boosing, but really it was his nascent fanbase who have already come up with the greeting of "Booooo-ooooo!"

The rest of the songs alternated between possible future

singles, such as the excellent "Comet Theme Number One" and the more laboured punk number of "Can't Keep A Good Man Down".

Though the set lasted just half an hour, it petered to a close. It wasn't their best ever performance, possibly because The Garage, with its low-slung ceiling, tiny window of a stage, and drab black walls that do work well for punk gigs, was just too cold a setting for the warmth and theatricals of a CBE show.

An encore featured the slow, eerie melody of "Not Enough Purple Too Much Grey", which was followed up by an organ-driven romp through the Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog". He'd saved the night, as should be expected from a true showman who possesses a head full of tunes.

TIM PERCY

Shameless rock'n'rollers

POP

JON SPENCER BLUES
EXPLOSION
SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE
LONDON

necessary to make his band more than some bogus mismatch of walrus, Brycreamed cool and armadillo-in-their-underwear shamelessness.

Since ditching the splenetic excesses of the Eighties noise terrorists, Pussy Galore, Spencer has used the Blues Explosion to kick up a right rock'n'roll rumpus. Mixing blues, soul, funk, hip-hop and punk, they have made a promiscuous assault on any idea of musical history as being pure and sacred.

Their latest wily coyote of an album, *Acme*, is a deliciously ripe blend of new and old. At

one extreme, it boasts the hot and drooling soul simmer of "Do You Wanna Get Heavy?". At the other, there's "Attack", a head-on collaboration-cum-collision with Alec Empire. For just two minutes, the Blues Explosion becomes the John Spencer Robo-Spurgie.

Clearly, Spencer isn't all mouth and no trousers. He wastes no time on idle banter live, besides a frequent and oddly comical howl of "Blooooze Explosion". His trousers aren't to be sniffed at, either. They are without a doubt the tightest leather deal in town. It would be churlish to knock a man who is prepared to strangle himself at the crotch purely for the sake of our entertainment.

Musically, the thumping bump and "Ooooo!" grind of "Talk About the Blues", and the milk-smooth and slinky "Mag-

ical Colours" are showstoppers. The absence of a bass player in the band keeps the guitar-tweaking of "High Gear" fleet-footed and urgent, like Beck with wings.

Any lapse in testosterone is compensated for by butch drummer, Russell Simms. Suspiciously dressed in a tastelessly shimmering blue shirt, he looks like he could double as the bodyguard for his two skinny compadres and he plays his kit with what can only be described as a homicidal intent.

Never mind that Spencer is a style criminal and a doggy pimp of pastiche. As long as he plays this rock'n'roll lark like he really means it, and keeps roping in outsiders to keep it lively, the one genuine violation here is that this was the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion's only British date.

KEVIN HANLEY

Austerity to raise the hairs on the back of your neck

NOT SO long ago, a concert of Estonian religious music would have almost certainly guaranteed empty halls. But this week's three-stop tour by the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and Tallin Chamber Orchestra under Toon Kaljuste, with music by Erkki-Sven Tüür and Arvo Pärt, quickly sold out the vast interior of Durham Cathedral, packed out Huddersfield Town Hall, and saw a large queue of people who were waiting for returns outside the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

Arvo Pärt, now 53, has become

something of a New Age icon, the plain figures of his "mystic minimalism" chiming well with the body of taste that has reacted against the excesses of Modernism, as indeed Pärt turned from his own earlier serialism.

Tüür, who was born in 1959, seems to be evolving towards the same ecstatic spirituality. His brief *Possession for strings* (1993), begins with simple phrases, low in cellos and basses, but then grows more and more animated as folk-like fragments gradually lift the focal point of the texture. The music,

CLASSICAL
ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC
CHAMBER CHOIR/TALLIN
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
LONDON

whose modal contours give it an ageless quality, is intensely beautiful and does not seem to resist the onset of dissonance in the first violins: on its first encounter with this sign of ugliness, it dies away in pained silence.

Tüür's *Requiem* (1994) inhabits the same austere ecstatic sound-world. Again, it grows from an opening low in the chorus, the strings weaving increasingly frantic commentary around the vocal lines as they move up to the first climax at "Tuba mirum", with the piano now adding a manic commentary and the sopranos and mezzos interjecting a few brief shrieks that recall the shamanistic music of his countryman, Veljo Tormis - this being the first time that this has sounded so explicitly Estonian.

The choir outlines a dislocated

chorale before silence suddenly crashes in, and the solo soprano movingly intones the "Recordare". The choir slowly re-establishes the onward movement, ignoring the piano which suggests that one of Messiaen's exotic birds had perched on Tüür's score. Again, a dip into calm growth as the music moves towards the great cry of "Requiem eternam" that crowns the whole work: it fades to nothing and a single triangle stroke kisses it farewell.

Some of Arvo Pärt's music seems to re-stir the soup: instead of evolv-

ing, his style is simply re-applied to the next piece. The result is unfailingly beautiful, but one can sometimes have the feeling of having been here before as in his *Trisagion* (for strings) of 1992/93.

His *Litany* of 1994 is much more impressive. An English setting of 24 short prayers of St John Chrysostom, for solo quartet (here, the pure-toned Hilliard Ensemble), chorus and chamber orchestra, it builds very carefully: moving down the solo voices (with answering chorus) one by one, then two by two, then three and four, at which point choir

and orchestra are allowed their first climax.

All the while, the music remains as plain and affecting as a hermit's cell. Though Pärt allows the chorus more freedom of action in the second half, he is still keeping his powder dry. Then the accumulated energy is released in a thrilling climax as the text calls for God to do His will, the music ringing and swinging in exultant phrases that the hairs on the nape of your neck on end. Finally, a gentle epilogue lays it all to rest.

MARTIN ANDERSON

JP 11/20/150

Sarah Hemming
ches

Dumped by her trendy record label, Kylie Minogue is out to re-invent herself again.
Actress? Model? Either way, she'll never escape Charlene. By Fiona Sturges

Who shall I be today?



The news that Kylie Minogue has finally been dumped by ultra-hip record label, Deconstruction, comes as no surprise in the light of recent meagre sales. The 30-year-old actress and singer's last album shifted just 18,000 copies in the first two weeks, keeping it in the top 20 for only a week, and has sold a paltry 47,000 so far. In contrast, her first album sold 2 million. The split, apparently, was "amicable" and Minogue is now looking to concentrate on her film career. Perhaps if she had embarked upon a career change five years ago - a TV presenter or a UN ambassador - she wouldn't be in this mess now.

But if punters have failed to be moved by her musical offerings, it is doubtful whether film-goers will now embrace Kylie, the movie star. It would take a remarkable performance, indeed, to erase some of the sartorial disasters of the last decade and her presence on screen is more likely to remind us of her shortcomings, than convince us of new-found success.

Bouncing onto the scene 10 years ago, Minogue was a wholesome wannabe thrust into the limelight thanks to the staggering success of Australian soap, *Neighbours*. As she chirped about how lucky, lucky, lucky she was, it felt like we already knew her intimately, from her eternal on-screen love dilemmas to her real life romance with her peroxide co-star Jason Donovan.



Under the watchful eye of the chart-hugging label Stock, Aitken and Waterman, a string of hit singles transformed her from the endearingly smugged car mechanic, Charlene, to a gloriously fluffy disco diva. Minogue had all the makings of a conquering pop star. She always looked fantastic and her voice was no worse, and perhaps even a little better, than your average fabricated adolescent idol. But it was this display of shallowness that sanctioned Minogue's success, and of all her incarnations, she has always seemed most at home with this saucy, soapy persona. The plinky-plinky pop of her first hits appealed to a gay kitsch sensibility while her girl-next-door innocence and repetitive choruses satiated the pre-teen thirst for tack. Substance? Who needs it when you can melt a thousand hearts in a feather box and six-inch heels?

Her first mistake was trying to cast off the teen queen image.



In attempting to come over as a "serious artiste", she has forfeited the very audience that has kept her in fluffy frocks for nearly a decade.

But in a bid to get hip quick, she signed with the indie dance label, Deconstruction, donned the wig and suspenders and began a relationship with leather-clad INXS singer,

Michael Hutchence. But rather than being transformed into a raunchy dominatrix, Minogue ended up looking like an over-made-up adolescent girl who had just raided her mother's wardrobe. Time to bring in the image consultants.

Pitching for a maturer market, Minogue played the soul diva for her eponymous 1994

album, sporting Miss Mon-ey-penny-style specs and a suit and swapping Hutchence for the dreadlocked rocker, Lenny Kravitz. Since then, she has adopted musical styles as if trying on a selection of the season's best dresses. In her last album, she blandly steamed through every musical genre, from ambient, jazz and drum'n'bass to

trip hop, Britpop, and rock. Others have made the transition from lack teen-idol to creditable pop icon without a hitch, so why not Kylie? Madonna has successfully reinvented herself with each album and even after a year of rock'n'roll excess, Robbie Williams has transformed his seemingly doomed career into a triumphant return to the limelight. But for both Madonna and Williams, the wardrobe has followed the music, rather than preceded it. While Madonna maniacally maps out the path of her career, Minogue seems to be forever at a crossroads.

As well as furnishing her with lots of starry suitors, Minogue's dizzy malleability has also given rise to a sequence of impressive musical collaborations including Nick Cave, The Grid and the Manic Street Preachers. Through these partnerships we have been introduced to artyKylie, gothKylie, danceKylie and recently, indieKylie. But though they all afforded her fleeting flashes of musical credibility, in each instance it was clear that she was more than happy to have the script written for her.

But then imagination was never her forte. Just look at her album titles: *Kylie*, *Kylie Minogue* and *Kylie Minogue*. And the lyrics for this latest disastrous album were mostly penned by the pint-sized diva herself. When manufactured pop stars decide to get involved in the songwriting process, they can generally kiss their careers goodbye. Ironically, one of the album's better tracks is called "I Don't Need Anyone", a song which was co-written by the Manic Street Preacher's James Dean Bradfield.

Now Minogue has run out of collaborators and, style-wise, has left herself with nowhere else to go. Her recent excursion into the world of fashion as a model of H&M Hennes fashion store, following in the modelling footsteps of Eva Herzigova, has been met with derision and viewed as further evidence of her quest for some sort of identity.

But against all the odds, the one area where Minogue has found success is in making us like her. Her desperation for acceptance makes her seem refreshingly human, compared to the chilly detachment of Madonna and the cocky enthusiasm of Robbie Williams. We feel frustration rather than malice when confronted by each erroneous incarnation and we genuinely want her to succeed. Even with our reluctance to invest in her albums, we remain fascinated by what could possibly come next.

After all, how can anyone dislike that sweet, grinning fuzzleball that was Charlene? And who could resist those delicious lashes and that post-coital smile? For all her flaws, it is her innocent charm that has sustained her for over a decade and whatever misguided decisions she may make now, could well see her through another one.

VIDEOWATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

Blackadder - The Complete Collection Box Set (15), £59.99. They don't make them like this any more. Actually, they really don't. The first of the series, with Edmund as a lily-livered medieval ward, wasn't up to much. Only with *Blackadder's* Elizabethan incarnation does the programme hit its stride, forging a wordy bawdiness and maintaining a period detail in the writing that the remaining two series developed brilliantly. The sharp characterisation and performances don't stop with Rowan Atkinson's conniving, cynical turn as Edmund, and Tony Robinson's preternaturally stupid Baldrick. Miranda Richardson is perfectly cast as the coquettish Elizabeth I, as are Tim McInnerny as Lord Percy, Hugh Laurie as the Prince Regent in *Blackadder the Third* and Stephen Fry as General Melchett in *Blackadder Goes Forth*. Watch also how Curtis and Eilon transformed the tone of the programme from upmarket *Corby On* to popular historical satire by the moving conclusion of the last series. A classic.

Talldog Heads 2 (12), £14.99. It somehow seemed inevitable that this second collection of six, half-hour monologues would find critics driving a qualitative wedge between it and its decade-old predecessor. Most of the carping seemed to centre on Bennett's admittedly selective apprehension of contemporary Britain. When the heads talk about their jobs or pastimes, for instance, it's true that none of them have a marketing post or surf the Internet: Patricia Routledge's Miss Fozzard works in an archaic-sounding department store, Eileen Atkins' character is an antique dealer, and David Haig's Wilfred is a park-keeper. Their language also tends to resort to Northern bathos and excessively polite circumlocution. But it's hardly as if any of this is unintentional on Bennett's part. Each character is revealing a long-held secret, or unearthing a fundamental truth about themselves - Miss Fozzard turns out to be a highly respectable sexual deviant, Wilfred a child molester, and Julie Walters is the wife of a serial killer. The superb drama at the heart of each of these monologues isn't so much their inherently clearcut predicaments - and with the lottery, lesbianism, the media's appetite for a killer and sexual freedom, they're hardly old-fashioned - but the compassionate, elegiac way in which Bennett nudges his characters to a certain realisation.

In search of the great British sitcom

Or: why the US outwrites us. By Veronica Lee



'Fawlty Towers': one of the few classic sitcoms from this country

It's a fair bet that Caroline Aherne, Craig Cash and Henry Normal - creators of the wonderfully original *The Little Family* - will stop after just one two more six-part series. Good sitcom writers, from John Cleese to Jennifer Saunders, give up after a few series because they know such high-quality writing is unsustainable. So we come the Americans appear to produce a never-ending flow of high-quality, high-production-value TV? There are those who say we see the best American shows. But living aside *Friends*, *Prose*, *Larry Sanders*, *Seinfeld*, *Roseanne* and *Friends* at their best, even medium-quality US sitcoms leave the British ending. And forget about serial drama - *NYPD Blue*, *Thirtysomething*, *ER*, *St Elsewhere*, *Chicago*, *My So-Called Life*, *LA Law*, *Our Mr. T*, *This Life*. No contest. The US is a quality writing in depth. Why? It's about status. There's an old Hollywood story about the starlet on the set who was so stupid that she slept in the writer's dressing room. These days, any tress aiming to get on should turn

herself into Heidi Fleiss for TV scribblers: writers are recognised as the founding stone of any well-constructed drama or sitcom. American writers are often far more erudite than their increasingly dumbed-down British counterparts. (*Friends*, for example, is dubbed "the fraternity house", because of Ivy League writers writing for it.) Then there are the serious issues addressed subtly in US TV. In *Roseanne* alone, child abuse, gay rights, racial intolerance, unemployment and the disintegration of families were meat and potatoes to

its writers, while Jesse, a new sitcom from the *Friends* stable (coming to Britain next year), has Christina Applegate (from *Married With Children*) upsetting the religious Right in her eponymous role as a single mom. What do we get? Lads on the piss; lads on the puke; birds putting on make-up. So where are our good writers? Not writing sitcoms, that's for sure. Most good British writers (and there are plenty of them) are either in the theatre or soaps, where we outrun the Americans by a country mile. American TV is awash with money

from commercials, and can afford to commission pilot-after-pilot of sitcoms and serials, many of which are never green-lighted. Executives are ruthless; series are pulled after just a few episodes if they don't get the ratings. But if a project works, the rewards are enormous: the latest season of *ER* was just sold to the NBC network by Warner Bros for half a billion dollars. That kind of money supports the "table-writing" approach. On a show such as *Friends*, as many as 12 writers are credited. That means that individuals or writing teams will work on particular storylines, a character or pairing of characters and, most importantly, the "arc" of the show with its overall theme, development, storylines, new characters and the season cliffhanger.

"Ah," say British producers, "if only we could afford to employ 12 writers..." But I have yet to meet the writer who puts in the 16-hour days American producers often expect from their staff. This is partly due to a different work ethic in Britain, and partly due to intellectual laziness: but yes, it's mostly money - the average fee for a sitcom episode is a few thousand pounds (as opposed to tens of thousands of dollars).

But money doesn't necessarily buy quality. As Maria Kaufman, one of *Friends* creators, says: "We produce

a lot of crap over here, too. Ever seen *Costello*? - an appallingly unfunny sitcom that lasted three weeks. Her coproducer David Crane said: "We work really, really hard. Writers are here until two, three, four o'clock in the morning, several nights a week, to make OK jokes even better."

Not everyone subscribed to the joint-effort theory. Ask J. Michael Staccynski, sole creator of sci-fi series *Babylon 5* (more popular here than in the US). "Back in the golden days of TV there would be one voice on a show. TV is at its worst when done by committee. It needs a singular vision."

But even joint efforts have their singular vision: the runner's. The runner has overall command (answerable to the executive producers) of that week's episode. He or she is a writer with experience on the show who weaves together the various writing strands and offers a throughline. In effect, the quality controller. The job is unknown on British sitcoms.

All too often our sitcoms and drama appeared to be commissioned, written and acted by people on different continents. Good American TV is always produced by teamwork and producers value quality writing and the actors' contribution. As Debbie Fleiss said of her role in *For Your Love*: "There are times this stuff is so real, so close to home, I feel I am morphing into my character on set."

EN

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NETWORK

Profit-making through the portal

America Online's purchase of Netscape gives it access to subscribers who are using portal sites. By Stephen Pritchard

Four billion dollars might seem a large price to pay for a company that gives away its best-known product. But, in a business that is starting to take brands very seriously, America Online's deal to buy Netscape, makers of the Navigator and Communicator browser software packages, makes sense.

AOL is already the world's largest consumer Internet company: in the UK alone, it has over 500,000 subscribers. Last year, AOL bought the rival service provider CompuServe. Buying Netscape gives AOL access to some important technologies, especially in electronic commerce. It also gives AOL ownership of Netscape's Netcenter, one of the world's most popular websites. The cost of the deal is around \$4.2bn.

In the last year, Netscape has changed its business. It is no longer simply a software company, instead,

it is also a media and advertising company. Since it launched Netcenter in June, 9 million Internet users have registered with the site.

"Portal" sites such as Netcenter are increasingly important on the Net. There are now so many websites that surfing (or looking for sites on an almost random basis) is a waste of time. Internet users find it easier to go first to a portal site such as Netcenter, or one of the search engines. Portals are a key source of revenue on the Net: the large audiences they attract make them premium places to advertise.

"Netscape is not an Internet service provider, and it does not have a subscriber base," says James Eibisch, Internet analyst at IDC. "But there is the emerging area of the portals. This effectively gives Netscape - even though it started as a software company - subscribers through membership of the Netcenter site. Huge numbers go

through that site every day." AOL will now have access to those users and will be able to drive traffic on to its other Internet operations. E-commerce, or selling goods and services over the Net, is a key motive. In a parallel move, AOL announced plans to develop a new e-commerce package together with Sun Microsystems, to encourage bricks and mortar businesses to sell on line.

"AOL sees the opportunity to build more of its business around e-commerce," suggests Simon Hayward at the Gartner Group analysts. "Having the portfolio of Netscape products supports that. Netscape has already proved itself in building e-commerce sites."

The launch of subscription-free Internet services, such as Dixon's FreeServe, supports the view that in the future Internet companies will rely more and more on revenues from electronic shopping and ser-

vices such as advertising rather than subscription fees. "AOL is the landlord of Internet commercial property," says Hayward. "AOL provides the property where specialist

"The big brands are really taking this seriously and they are moving at a serious pace"

merchants can sell their wares." Owning Netscape further strengthens AOL as an Internet brand. It also secures the future of Netscape's software products. Netscape is still a relatively small

company and it has been bruised by competition from Microsoft. Recently, Microsoft's Internet Explorer overtook Netscape Navigator as the most popular Web browser.

For Internet service companies, there could be disadvantages in relying on Netscape software owned by a competitor as powerful as AOL. AOL plans to run Netscape as an independent business, as it does with CompuServe. In fact, AOL will continue to build its own subscribers' Internet access software around Explorer - not least because it gives Windows users access to AOL from the desktop.

"It is good for the Net," suggests Roy Bliss, the managing director of Demon Internet. "It bolsters the Netscape browser and that can only be good for consumers because they have a choice." Observers believe that the benefits of a stronger competitor to Microsoft outweigh the disadvantages of another

Internet service provider - AOL - owning the Netscape browser technology.

"There is immense competition out there," says John Swingewood, the director of Internet and multimedia at BT. "My agreements with Netscape are very clear: I buy software from them. We are in a world where we have both co-operation and competition." He points out that BT's partners in Line One - United News & Media and News International - compete in other markets but are happy to work together on the Net.

Swingewood, though, has been on a shopping expedition of his own. Last week BT bought 50 per cent of Excite UK, the search engine and portal, from its US parent. The fee, \$10m, is small change in light of the AOL-Netscape deal, but it shows the importance that companies such as BT are now placing on portal sites. Excite UK will continue as a joint

venture between BT and Excite Inc. and the site will keep its branding. BT, though, plans to use Excite as a channel for its own electronic commerce developments. Swingewood believes the combination of Excite, a well-known brand on the Net, and BT, a name UK consumers trust, will be very powerful. "As more and more people come on to the Net, our research shows that BT is a company they trust for transactions," he says. "The joint venture with Excite moves us up into the new revenue streams of advertising and e-commerce."

The number of mergers, deals and takeovers on the Net is bound to grow as the Internet reaches more and more households. Well-known names will have the edge. "This is really about some serious brands making their moves," says Swingewood. "The big brands are really taking this seriously, and they are moving at a serious pace."

Disguising a cottage industry

The information superhighway comes to Wales. By Steve Homer

THIS IS without doubt the best-connected "farm" in the world. You wouldn't believe it to look at it, but it is the main thoroughfare of Britain's information superhighway. With cows grazing over the fence and a cattle grid by the front gate, you would be forgiven for thinking the most exciting thing to happen would be the milk tanker arriving. But pop inside to make a call and you shouldn't have trouble getting a line. Every single phone call made between the UK and America (and a lot more besides) could flow across the kitchen table - if there were one. You can make one million calls at a time from Home Farm.

The stone cottage and its outbuildings are not what they seem. It contains some of the most sophisticated power-generation and telecommunications equipment money can buy. The "farm" in Oswestry Bay, south Wales, is the disguised landing point for half of a pair of cables called Gemini that, between them, more than double capacity of the nine communi-

cations cables currently connecting Europe and America. Gemini, which has just come on stream, will have a capacity of 30 gigabits per second when it is fully commissioned next July. To put this in context, the cable could transmit over four thousand 150,000-word novels a second; 30,000 photographs a second; 6,000 TV channels; or one million simultaneous phone calls. But where the capacity is needed is to transmit the text and pictures that make up the millions of pages of the World Wide Web. With the US still the home of the vast majority of web sites, and demand for Internet services continuing to rocket, pressure on the transatlantic Internet "backbone" is always high, and at times the infrastructure has been creaking.

The backers of Gemini (Britain's Cable and Wireless and America's Worldcom) have completed the project in double-quick time. The cables have been laid in less than two years since the two companies decided to launch the project,



The cottage and outbuildings of Home Farm in South Wales disguise some of the most sophisticated telecommunications equipment money can buy

John Lawrence

which has cost over half a billion dollars. "It's been an incredible rush to get this system up and running," says Mark Heraghty, managing director of Cable and Wireless's international business. "Over 70 per cent of content accessed comes from the US and, with traffic growing at about 100 per cent a year, capacity was becoming a problem."

Gemini is a remarkable piece of engineering. The traffic will be carried over eight optical fibres, each as thin as a hair. While the eight fibres are housed in armoured cables, they are in a demanding environment. In places, the two 6,000-kilometre cables have been dropped into waters five miles deep and across under-sea mountain

chains. Mountains are, unsurprisingly, not good for the cables, but it is coastal waters where the biggest dangers lurk. Repairing a cable deep-underwater is not easy. Should the unimaginable happen, the other cable will keep working while a repair ship puts to sea. Users will notice no difference.

Gemini is built in a ring structure to make it more resistant to failures at any one point. A "terrestrial" UK ring links London with the cable stations at Lands End and Wales; a "wet" ring links the two UK cable stations and the two US cable stations at New Jersey and Rhode Island, and a "terrestrial" ring links New York with the two US cable stations.

But the Internet is not about to double in speed. "While most of the congestion on the Internet has been on these backbones," says Susan Sarkar of telecoms analysts Ovum, "congestion is now moving towards the local access network, that last part of the worldwide phone network that connects into the home."

Even the backbone is not going to be big enough for long. Cable and Wireless and Worldcom are partners in a new cable that will come into operation in two years and will offer 20 times the bandwidth of Gemini. "Our need for capacity just seems to know no bounds, for the next 10 years at least," says Sarkar.



Six awkward questions to ask your new Internet Service Provider.

- 1 Can you provide me with Internet access for £5 a month?
- 2 Can you give me low cost telephone and Internet call charges through your own national telephone network? *0800 851 1619*
- 3 Can you guarantee no set-up costs? *0800 754 0872*
- 4 Can you give me 5 e-mail addresses as well as 10Mb of web space?
- 5 Can you offer me a 24 hour/365 day award-winning customer helpline at low call rates? *0800 490 2673*
- 6 Do you think I should call 0800 052 5678? *0800 265 8243*

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Combating social exclusion

A CAMPAIGN to bring IT expertise and sponsorship to voluntary groups will be launched tomorrow.

The initiative, CommUnity, aims to persuade firms to donate time, skilled personnel and computer equipment to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups.

The campaign is being organised by Business in the Community, a registered charity set up to encourage social investment by big business. BITC has hundreds of corporate members, including 80 of the FTSE 100 companies.

CommUnity will be chaired by Martin Trees, president of IT multinational Experian who says it is all about combating social exclusion in the information age. "Our intention is to forge social change by promoting the widest use of new technologies. We are keen to promote projects that bring communications skills to people who might otherwise be disenfranchised from IT - the long-term unemployed and inner-city kids for example."

The campaign steering group includes British Telecom, EDS, Halifax plc, Hill and

Knowlton, ICL, Post Office Counters and the Department of Trade and Industry.

"One of our first projects will be matching business people willing to volunteer their IT skills with appropriate community beneficiaries," said Mr Trees. "IBM has designed and donated an internet-based system, COMMUT, which we will use to build up this time and skills bank nationally."

"The millennium bug is another big issue because charities lacking in IT expertise are at special risk," he added. The campaign will link with other initiatives such as the BBC's Webwise Campaign, the DTT's Action on IT and Social Exclusion and the government IT For All programme. Many prominent firms are believed to have expressed interest.

Charity leaders hope the campaign will succeed. "Information and communications technologies can be powerful tools for charities but smaller groups may be missing out," according to Dorothy Dalton of the Association of Chief Executives of National Voluntary Organisations.

Action 2000 also welcomes

the initiative. "Expertise, experience and best practice are increasingly shared on a business-to-business level and we would like to see the voluntary sector drawn into that

net," said a spokesman. The campaign will be launched at the House of Commons tomorrow by DTI minister Barbara Roche.

ANDY PARQUARSON

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مكتبة الامم

Hitting the right notes

Jason and Matthew Olim began an online music store in a basement four years ago. Now worth \$23m, they've become an Internet legend. By Tamsin Todd

When Tony Blair applauded leaders of the e-commerce revolution in his address to the Commons for the new session of Parliament, he probably had people like Jason and Matthew Olim in mind. Four years ago, in one of those moves that's become Internet legend, Olim and his twin brother Matthew launched the online music store CDnow from their parents' basement, with an investment of \$20,000. At the time there were few commercial ventures on the Internet, and no success stories: Amazon bookstore didn't open for another year. In its first year CDnow sold \$2m worth of music. In the first half of 1998, sales exceeded \$22m.

CDnow has secured rights to be the exclusive music seller on top sites such as Yahoo and Lycos, and a recent merger with competitor N2K increased its share of the online music market to about 45 per cent. With initiatives in place to increase its international visibility and incorporate new technologies such as digital distribution, the still young company looks like an important player - in both the online and off-line music retail industries.

But money wasn't much on the brothers' minds when they conceived the company, says 29-year-old Olim, in London last week to promote the launch of CDnow's UK website. Their main goal, he says, was "to build a better music store". As Olim describes it, there was a gap in the music retail market that badly needed fixing. He remembers a frustrating visit to his local record

store. A friend had loaned him a copy of *Kind of Blue*, and he was looking for more Miles Davis. The advice he got from the store staff was to look in the jazz section.

"Retail stores have lost sight of what they're really doing," he says. "Good music stores are the ones that help you learn, because they realise that their mission is not to make money off of selling the album. It's to get you to be a happier person because you've found music that makes you happy."

Olim, who was working as a software engineer, realised that he could use the Internet to connect customers to music. "I was sitting in a bar one night and it dawned on me that I could solve my Miles Davis problem. I could put a database of albums together with a database of reviews and make it available on the Internet." CDnow would provide "what people really need - someone who's going to help them find the music that makes them happy."

On the CDnow website, customers can browse reviews, artist biographies, event listings, buyers' guide, charts and archives such as *Rolling Stone* magazine. Sound samples are available, so that customers can listen to parts of an album before they buy it. There's a personal shopping service that recommends customers' preferences and makes recommendations for them, and for last-minute Christmas shoppers there are gift certificates that can be ordered and delivered by e-mail up to 24 December. Customers can browse and search the archive of 350,000 CDs, tapes, vinyl records, videos, books and other music-

related items in stock. Regular customers can enrol in a frequent buyers' program and earn points towards free products.

Buying itself is easy: customers fill their virtual shopping cart by clicking on the items they want, then enter credit card details. UK customers currently pay US prices, plus shipping and handling.

Olim is especially proud of CDnow's customer service. Representatives can be reached by e-mail or telephone 24 hours a day, are fluent in 12 languages, and they are music experts - DJs, musicians, and die-hard fans.

More than half of CDnow's customers are over 30. Olim explains that the depth of the catalogue and level of expertise is attractive to older customers, who may be searching for eclectic music that is not available on the high street.

Dressed casually, his sprained ankle (a kayaking injury) propped on the coffee table, Olim looks and sounds like a typical Generation-X entrepreneur who's found a way to combine work with his love of music, and is more interested in providing a service than making money. But although CDnow ships to many countries, Olim wants the company to become more international.

To do that, CDnow will offer multilingual websites, pricing in local currencies and shipping from local sources. Starting early next year, there will be a UK-specific site with prices in pounds and UK-specific content, such as coverage of local festivals. Already, many European orders are shipped from a

warehouse in Holland which contains about 150,000 European titles.

With its purchase earlier this year of SuperSonic Boom, a custom CD company, CDnow is also moving into the custom compilation market. Customers pick out individual tracks they'd like to have together on an album. CDnow manufactures the CD, prints a cover and ships it out. CDnow has custom compilation agreements with record companies, including EMI, for over 60,000 tracks in total.

The development Olim is really excited about, however, is digital distribution. With digital distribution, customers will download albums directly from retailers such as CDnow onto their computers, then use CD-writers to produce CDs.

However, there are barriers. One is hardware: only a few million people have the CD-writers they need to produce downloaded albums; another is the record companies, who are unwilling to authorise digital distribution, fearing their products will be illegally replicated. But that's already happening, explains Olim. Millions of people have software that allows them to trade music files electronically - and illegally. "The best way to fight piracy is to offer a legitimate alternative," says Olim. "By offering a legitimate digital download which is encrypted, we can reduce piracy and create incremental sales."

And what happens beyond digital distribution? "I don't know. But you know what? We'll be ready when it does come. We'll probably be the ones to figure it out."



Jason Olim: 'Good music stores help you learn'

Peter Macdonald

Entering the fourth era

LAST WEEK saw the end of an era for Web design, when America Online (AOL) purchased Netscape Communications Corporation. Despite its short history, seven years at best, Web design has passed through three eras, distinguished partially by the browsers being used at the time but also by the parties producing those technologies.

The first era of Web design began with the first graphics-capable Web browser to gain wide acceptance, Mosaic. Few remember this prehistoric period of Web design, before there were tables or frames or even font tags. These were simple days when the thought of doing actual "business" on the web seemed like a bastardization of the concept.

When Marc Andreessen left Mosaic to create a commercial Web browser, Netscape, a second era of Web design began. This was the Golden Age when HTML 2.0 was the standard and Netscape 1, and a little later Netscape 2, made up over 80 per cent of the browser market. Phrases such as "cross-browser issues" and "backward compatibility" were yet to be cursed on newsgroups and discussion lists. Web designers were a desperately sought commodity even by the big companies that were struggling to understand what this new media would mean to their business.

Then came the browser wars, the third era of Web design, the era that came to an end last week. This era started when Microsoft introduced a browser that could seriously contend with Netscape's browser, Internet Explorer 3 and began a massive marketing campaign to get their browser placed onto every computer in the land. During this period many small time Web designers had become overnight successes during the golden age fiasco, while others merged, and e-business became the constant buzzword. Web design was no longer about "code once, use anywhere" but we were forced to test, test, test.

With the purchase of Netscape by AOL, the worlds largest Internet Service Provider, we are now entering a fourth era. This is not to say that the browser wars are over, but the dynamics have forever changed as the chief players are shuffled around. AOL is more than just an ISP; although the 14 million or so customers they serve is nothing to sneeze at, AOL is a company that is positioning itself to be a major player in online communication. This deal has wide ranging ramifications and will

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

one day either be celebrated as a watershed event for the Internet or rueed as the day it all came tumbling down.

For its part, Microsoft, currently involved in an anti-trust case in the US, is not crowing over the fact that they have forced another company off the field. Rather the spinmasters in Redmond proclaim this acquisition as proof positive that competition still remains strong and vital in the Internet industry.

This is simply not the case. If the allegations against Microsoft are to true - and given the facts of this case and Microsoft's history there can be little doubt that they are - then the acquisition of Netscape by AOL is the final proof that Microsoft's actions not only hurt but undermine the very foundations of open competition. Netscape was unable to compete on the slanted playing field created by Microsoft and as a result have had to sell themselves to a third party with deeper pockets in the hopes of preserving their products. Will this tactic work? It hasn't in the past.

Remember WordPerfect? In the 1980's through the early 1990's, in a highly competitive field, WordPerfect was the leading word-processor. Then Microsoft released Word and, like a young gunslinger trying to take down the fastest gun in the West, directly targeted WordPerfect's customers by "leveraging" Word with its Windows operating system. Eventually WordPerfect lost just enough customers that it had to sell itself off. The product first passed through the hands of Novell and then to Corel, leaving market share rapidly along the way.

Word is now the market standard while WordPerfect has been stagnant for over 5 years. The result is that there is no longer any significant competition in the word processor market. Could this same fate befall the browser market?

Microsoft reminds me of the kid who owned the

and threatened to take it away unless everybody agreed to play by his rules.

The other players in the game, not only Microsoft's colleagues and competitors but the public as well, have allowed Microsoft to get away with its immature behaviour for far too long now.

Several people have asked me this week "Are you glad AOL bought Netscape?" To which I reply "No." And then add "...but it's better than Netscape disappearing altogether."

It's not that I hate AOL. My guilty secret is that after graduating university it was my first non-collegiate ISP. However, AOL is a different kind of company than Netscape and I question its ability to keep up the same pioneering spirit that, in its brief life span, has been Netscape's hallmark.

Will Netscape become homogenized with AOL? Will we see Navigator become as clumsy and simplistic as the AOL interface? Will AOL push for standards or will it incorporate its own proprietary code?

No other media is as inexorably linked to its medium as the Web is to the Web browser. There are few changes in paper technology that would be radical enough to necessitate an overhaul in the way in which print designers do their work, much less require them to rethink and relearn their design skills.

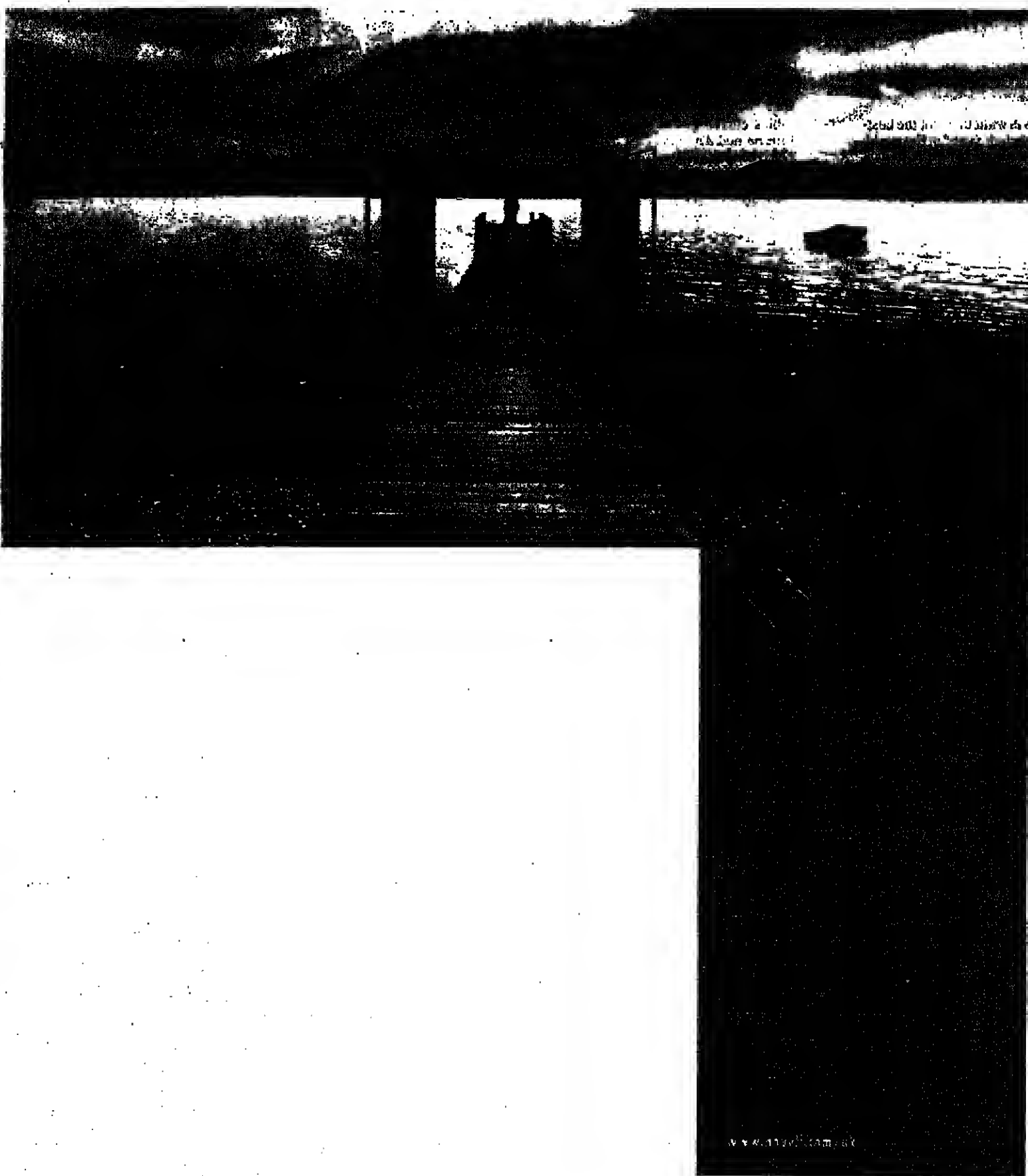
However, for Web design, every new browser or plug-in means new skills to learn, new ways of presenting our content, and new constraints to make sure that our sites work ubiquitously: whomever controls the browser, controls the Web. There is hope. Last April Netscape released the code to create the Navigator browser into the public domain (<http://www.independent.co.uk/net/980407ne/story5.html>). This means that despite the fact that AOL owns the company, it does not own the code used to make the browser, and Navigator browsers can be produced independent of what AOL decides to do with the code.

Still, for a piece of software, any software, to become popular, it has to be installed first. Most home computer buyers will simply accept whatever browser comes pre-installed.

We can not predict exactly how this change will play out in the future, but there is little question in my mind that it will have a significant impact on the Web and, consequently, on the way we do Web design.

E-mail comments or queries to Jason at indy_webdesign@compuserve.com

A closed network is a contradiction in terms



Novell.

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How Daleks climbed the stairs

Dr Who
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctordrwho/>
WHOLE SITES are devoted to working out the Doctor's obscure chronology, but the BBC's official 20th anniversary page is a straightforward paradox-free overview. All eight incarnations, from Hartnell to McGann, are profiled, along with an alien fact file for those who don't know their Quarks from their Krotons, an online quiz with mystery prizes and teasing details of how the Daleks finally learnt to climb stairs (in a 1983 episode). Special effects, surprisingly, are thin on the ground - though the Tardis does flicker mysteriously in and out of view. Key links lead to Whovians worldwide, and include the struggles of the technically painstaking Dr Who Restoration Team.

Online Surgery
<http://www.onlinesurgery.com/>
VIEWERS MAY emerge from this site grateful for the current limitations of video streaming techniques. The nervous should certainly start with a relatively opaque 28.8K liposuction, before graduating to the full ISDN-speed tummy tuck. Entire cosmetic

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

operations are online here. Controversially, would-be participants are invited to e-mail explaining just how that nose-job would improve their lives, and the most convincing responses qualify for free treatment - with the world looking on. Though highly informative for the unsketchy, this is of course a commercial undertaking, run by a Seattle-based provider of adult and gambling sites.

Naturesongs
<http://www.naturesongs.com/>
THIS DIGITALLY empowered bird-watcher spends hours on a ladder with minidisc recorder and directional microphone, capturing the sounds of the natural world. The resulting huge archive is here: finches, flycatchers, blackbirds, orioles, wrens, woodpeckers and more, along with unfeathered friends such as toads, bullfrogs, howling coyotes and various creepycrawlies. His own speculations take flight. "Bird brain," he says,

should not be a term of abuse, referring as it does to a complex structure designed for rapid in-flight calculations. And bird song could be a means of direct communication with the subconscious. This last concept, he admits, is Still To Be Explored.

Mac OS8 - Netscape
<http://www.hin.de/yaro/macoss/>
SOME PC buyers wish that they had spent their money on an Apple instead. This site will generate the appearance of an Apple-style desktop within a Windows browser. A jolly jape from a German webhead, this Java creation won't really do much: it starts up convincingly but the file menu merely enables mail to be sent to its creator, and the desktop offers only three applications, including a non-working "memory game". There are, however, links to available programs for running real Apple software on PCs.

The Postmodernism Generator
<http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/cgi-bin/postmodern>
THIS OLDFIE-but-goodie may be a cousin of the Surrealist Compliment Generator, but will also appeal to fans



Tom Baker's Dr Who, with co-star Louise Jameson

of Alan Sokal's send-up of the alleged misuse of science by poststructuralist penseurs. Clicking on the above link will lead to a dense academic treatise, in which the usual suspects - Baudrillard, Derrida, Lyotard and all the others - circulate with impeccable authority. But readers will subsequently discover that "the essay just

seen is completely meaningless and was randomly generated by the Postmodernism Generator". Seemingly it is all the work of a Dada Engine, which, fed with the requisite verbiage, produces nonsense with a disconcerting surface panache: a similar effect may well be obtainable using computer jargon.

Why love bytes are so PC

MANY PEOPLE dislike their computers. They hit their machines, treat them badly, swear at them, and as a last resort, hurt them through the window.

They crash at the worst possible moment or slow down to unbearable speed. Such days are bad days. Sometimes, when things go wrong I find myself staring at the screen wondering how a machine can be so rude, crashing without a word of warning. How could I predict that installing my new sound card would upset my machine to the point that no network activity would be possible?

This lack of interest in having a dialogue with me is leading the relationship with my laptop down a dangerous path where I might have to trade it for a younger model. Perhaps a slim and sexy Toshiba Portage. Or even cooler, superslim Sony Valo. Isn't it what happens in relationships where there is no communication?

According to Sanford University researchers, Clifford Nass and Byron Reeves, if the computers were more polite to us, spoke with a female voice and flattered us over jobs that were well done, we would be more forgiving when things turned nasty.

I still remember when it was cool to give your computer the start up voices of Hal from 2001 or Darth Vader from Star Wars. We were wrong, it transpires, as having a machine with a dominant, kick-ass, macho attitude is not conducive to developing a meaningful relationship that can survive crushes and frozen screens.

It can be your software, hardware, network or plain loose cables that put obstacles in the way of productivity. Error messages in techno-Klingon language rarely pass for a meaningful communication and self-problem solving for computers is a long way away. However, as the Stanford researchers point out, giving computers personality appears to strengthen resilience of users, whose commitment and patience will grow out of two way communication.

Interestingly, according to Nass and Reeves, people who have used computers for a longer period of time, had more propensity to anthropomorphise of the machines. That means with time, our relationship with the silicon chips and a few wires grows on us, and leads us to project human per-



EVA PASCOE

I often reassure myself looking at the cables at the back that it really is only a machine

sonality on the computer. With gathering experiences, small successes and some failures we are developing a picture of the machine, and with time fill the uncomprehensible behaviour with explanations.

My mother thinks my laptop behaves just like me, unpredictable, neurotic with occasional flashes of brilliance. She says that like dogs, laptops reflect the owner's personality.

I often reassure myself looking at the cables at the back that it is only a machine. What confused me even more was giving my laptop a voice.

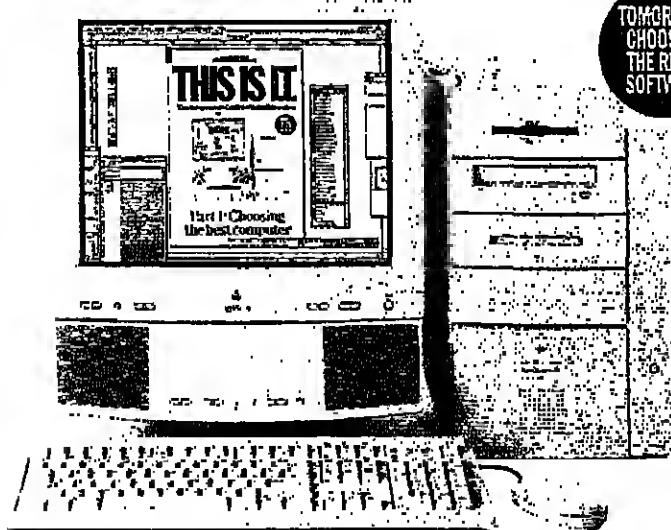
During a brief testing of AOL software I was called into communication by Joanna Lumley siren-like whisper saying invitingly: "You have mail!" Suddenly my e-mails, even to my accountant, have acquired a deeper tone of complicity, if not intimacy.

According to a character in Star Trek, intelligence, self-awareness and consciousness are the criteria for sentience. If equipping my laptop with Joanna Lumley personality will make me more productive then I will certainly go for it. However, what if it outsmarts me and starts questioning the content of my work, not just improving the speed of it? Can I bear criticism from a mid-range machine? If my computer was my teammate as opposed to my tool, would I be able to accept its occasional superiority? All those questions are put, if not answered, in *The Media Equation: How people treat computers* by Nass and Reeves.

Read it, but meanwhile mail me with your comments on the relationship with your computer at Eva@never.com

Starting this Saturday in THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT

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The Independent are offering the readers the opportunity to win one of twenty subscriptions to the Martin Dawes Telecommunications Internet Service currently £99pa - 'breathe on line' with free 24hr technical support and unlimited access.

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Chills cost 40p per minute and should be no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Monday 30 November 1998. There are no alternative prizes or cash substitutes. Normal terms and conditions apply. The Editor's decision is final.

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مكتبة العصر

MY TECHNOLOGY: THE SHAMEN'S MR C RAVES ABOUT HIS STATE-OF-THE-ART STUDIO

You can't beat the sound system

We have always used technology to its fullest potential with what we do at the End club and everything we have done as The Shamen. We were the first club in the world to do a two way audio visual ISDN link with another club in another country. That was over two years ago. The Shamen were the first band in the world to perform live on the Internet, at the Town and Country club in Kentish Town, north London, about four years ago. And three years ago we were the first band in the world to release, free of charge, a single on the Internet. We still don't use it commercially - we don't sell records at the End website or merchandise. It's about using technology to express ourselves artistically and to gain information and use that information to

create sounds and experience. The sound system in the End club is built by Thunderbridge. The brain of the sound system is called an Omni-Drive system and controls everything about the sound; where you want the sound and the frequencies you want in what areas. It's basically the dispersion of the sound that makes the End sound system as good as it is.

We generally have pre-sets now. Our sound engineer, Cyclone, is a really, really good engineer and he has got different settings for different nights, depending on the sound, house music is slightly warmer than techno so it would be slightly softer on the top end (treble) and fatter on the bottom (bass). Whereas a techno night would be a bit tighter on the bottom end and more ringy on the top end. If something is very vocal heavy the mid-range would be pulled back a little bit so the vocals



Mr C faces the music

Mark Chivers

don't distort and overpower everything else.

The sound is much more important than the DJs, as a general rule. But one is no good without the other. As a producer, I make music; it's about making music and making music that sounds correct.

Our studio is state of the art; it's Macintosh computers, power Macs, running Logical Audio with Audio Works 8 (8-track digital software). It's a tape free studio.

I physically play everything in myself. However the technology makes it so much easier, quicker and makes you a much more powerful producer. You have got the versatility there to do exactly what you please; with the technology you can craft shapes out of sound and using the best modern software sequencers you can push your sequencing to a further degree. That is what making modern

dance music is, for those who are musicians. There are those who aren't musicians and don't know how to work around chord structures. If I am going to criticise technologically-based dance music, it's that there are too many people who aren't prepared to push their sounds into something new, more psychedelic, more electronic. I feel modern technology isn't really there to make music easier, it's there to make music more exciting, more interesting, to break new grounds.

Very few people are coming out with real innovative music, even though they are using innovative hardware and software. As the end of December The Shamen are splitting up in the physical world of atoms and are shifting to digital bits. We are going to recreate ourselves as digital characters on the Internet. Like animated characters almost. However on the Internet The

Shamen will still be growing and releasing music on digital files on the net. There may be performances as well, but the digital characters will be performing.

Why? Because in the physical world the whole music industry sucks. It's all about pounds, shillings and pence. There is no integrity anymore, there seems little experimentation and push as far as popular music. The Shamen is into evolving and growing and within the digital domain there are no barriers, there are no rules, and no one can tell us what we can or cannot do. Therefore as an art form the band can evolve.

The Shamen's final album, 'UP', is out now on Moskva records. More Shamen news on: www.nemeton.com

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

MICROSOFT SAID last week that it will release a modified version of Windows 98 and other software to comply with a preliminary injunction given against it by a judge in California to stop selling products that use versions of the Java programming language that do not pass Sun Microsystems's Java tests. The judge said that he issued the ruling because Sun, who brought the case against Microsoft, were likely to prevail in court. Sun has accused Microsoft of violating its 1996 licence to use Java by producing a Windows specific version, and introducing non-standard features into the language that is supposed to be platform-independent. Tom Surt, associate general counsel for Microsoft, said that while the company would comply with the preliminary injunction, executives had 30 days to file an appeal and had

not yet decided whether to do so. A Microsoft spokesman said that the changes would be invisible to users of Windows 98 and would have no effect on how applications worked. Microsoft also said it would strip critical Java programs from its Web browser for Apple Macintosh and Unix machines.

DELL, THE world's leading direct distributor of personal computers and the third largest PC supplier overall behind Compaq and IBM, made a breakthrough to become the leading PC provider to US businesses with more than 500 employees in the third quarter of this year, according to Ziff Davis Market Intelligence's Projected Market Monitor study. Dell took 29.8 per cent of the large-business market, compared with 22.6 per cent in the previous

quarter, selling 66 per cent more units over a year in which the market grew only 15 per cent. "Dell is making dramatic gains in the very spot where its indirect competitors initially fostered their respective businesses - the large commercial business segment," according to Matt Sargent, senior analyst with Z-D Market Intelligence.

BRITISH TELECOM said last week that it will buy a 50 per cent stake in the UK subsidiary of the Excite Internet portal site for \$10m. The deal represents a further move by BT to develop its online business interests, beyond providing Internet access, into the revenue generating fields of advertising and online transactions. Earlier this month BT announced a joint venture with the UK division of another portal,

Yahoo, to provide Internet access and search tools without a subscription fee.

Under the new agreement, BT will use Excite's Internet technologies as well as its online marketing and advertising sales experience in return for aiding the portal to localise its products and services for the UK Internet market. Excite UK will also market BT's existing Click service as Excite Click - a pay as you go method of accessing the Internet which requires neither registration nor monthly services, but earns revenue from charging a premium on top of the cost of a normal local phone call.

IN WASHINGTON, Microsoft and the Department of Justice (DOJ) claimed that the purchase of Netscape by AOL supported their respective sides of the anti-

trust case. In out of court comments, DOJ representatives portrayed the deal as a defensive "circling of the wagons" against Microsoft. Microsoft said the deal showed that the government was "five steps behind the industry" and that these emerging market forces undermined the basis of the In court, attention turned to documents and e-mails purporting to show Microsoft used unfair pressure to ensure that Internet Service Providers and Web site owners such as Disney and Cnet promoted its browser, rather than Netscape's.

"Disney will promote IE (and no other browser) as the client browser of choice for users of Disney content," said Disney's contract with Microsoft. Evidence also included an internal e-mail from a Microsoft executive who said that "ISI's have to swear allegiance to IE for typi-

cally 75 per cent of all the browsers they distribute in order to get into the referral server."

The government released the documents in support of the testimony of expert witness economist Frederick Warren-Boulton's testimony, a former employee of the DOJ's anti-trust department.

WORK ON a computer language that enables people to communicate using their mother tongue with people who speak other languages, via the Internet, is being carried out by researchers in the Institute of Advanced Studies at Tokyo's United Nations University. More than 120 computer and linguistics experts are working on the Universal Networking Language (UNL). Instead of translating directly between languages, the software converts speech into UNL, which can be

"deconverted" into any language supported by the system. Users can check the accuracy of the UNL conversion by playing it back in their own language. "It is not for translating Shakespeare or poetry or even a philosophical text," Professor Tarcisio Della Senta of Brazil, director of the Institute, said. He added that it would be useful for "logical texts" such as those used in science and commerce.

The first stage of the project, launched in April 1996, is to create conversion modules for 16 languages: the six official UN languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish - as well as German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Mongolian, Portuguese, Swahili and Thai. By 2005 the aim is for all languages that are used by UN members to be supported.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: I.T.

FAX: 0171 293 2505

VISUAL BASIC DEVELOPERS

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Ideally you possess knowledge of RoboHelp or a good knowledge of any other help authoring tool. Experience in the following is essential: .Jip, .html and .pdf files. The position will also require the production of technical reports for marketing purposes. The successful candidate will own document management in the company. For more information on this and other exciting opportunities, please contact: Grant on 0181 977 4848, or e-mail your CV to: grant.whelan@esslimited.com

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new office offer an international capability, with the personal, friendly approach of a local company. To find out how we can help you, come and talk to us at the Fast Track IT Fair at the Midland Crowne Plaza Hotel, Peter Street, Manchester, on the 2nd December. We'll be on Stand 13 in the Alexandra Suite from 11am to 7pm. Alternatively, contact us on one of the numbers below.



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- *Mainframe
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IT APPOINTMENTS continue overleaf

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Poole

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Wednesday 2nd December

This Wednesday come and meet directly with leading IT employers and recruiters at the Fast Track IT Fair in Manchester. Doors are open from 11am until 7pm and admission is free.

Exhibitors (stand numbers in brackets) include:

ECM Selection (1) - One of the UK's leading 'high technology' recruitment specialists. Clients are selected from the most successful companies, consultancies and research companies. Currently seeking candidates at graduate/senior level for Real-time, C, C++ & Java software engineers; systems architects; digital, analogue and ASIC designers; and physicists and mathematicians.

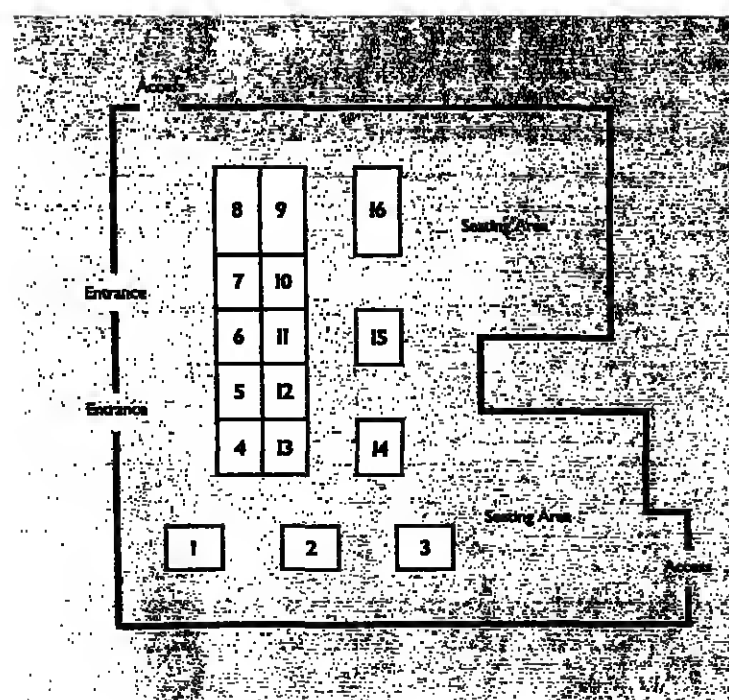
Westland System Assessment (2) - Westland has an excellent track record in providing consultancy and software based solutions to both civil and military markets. The company is seeking ambitious, self-motivated graduates with the following skills: C, C++, Delphi or Visual Basic; the ability to analyse the systems being modelled; and expertise in the design and development of software.

Reed Computing (3) - Reed Computing Personnel is the specialist IT division within Reed Personnel Services, the UK's leading recruitment specialist with almost four decades of experience. Reed is seeking candidates for a range of both junior and senior IT vacancies across all industries.

Intercity (5) - Intercity Consultants (North West) is a major force for the recruitment of IT personnel in the North West and Yorkshire. Candidates are being sought for a range of positions with high-profile clients.

Sheffield Hallam University (6) - Sheffield Hallam University offers courses for those wishing to top up their knowledge. Visit this stand for information on Sheffield Hallam's state-of-the-art innovative Masters degree programmes available as full-time or on a distance learning basis. Sponsorships and bursaries are available for suitable candidates.

Monarch Recruitment (7) - Monarch is widely regarded as one of the leading IT recruitment consultancies. Monarch services the whole of the UK and is a preferred supplier to most of the country's leading PLCs as well as almost all of the large computer consultancies and manufacturers. It will have a dedicated team of Manchester-based consultants at the Fair to discuss you and your career directly.



VSO (8) - VSO sends skilled people to work in partnership with people in poorer countries. It has 1,750 volunteers working in 61 countries, passing on their expertise to local people. VSO has a variety of exciting opportunities for IT professionals world-wide.

Itanex Recruitment (9) - Itanex Recruitment is the recruitment arm of the Itanex Consultancy, based in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Itanex Ltd. is the information technology supplier to a major electrical wholesaler and has extensive experience in all aspects of IT including systems design, development and implementation to telecoms and networks. Itanex is seeking a wide variety of IT applicants.

The Halifax (10) - The Halifax is the UK's largest residential mortgage lender. Its Information Systems division is responsible for managing and developing the technological infrastructure to enable the company to deliver a wide range of financial services to around 21 million customers. The Information Systems division has a range of exciting IT opportunities based in the West Yorkshire area.

Elan Computing (11) - Elan is the UK's largest independent IT recruitment consultancy, with specialist divisions covering networking and communications, systems and programming, computer operations, ERP, Executive Search and Progress. Elan provides both permanent and contract staff to blue-chip companies from every sector of business and industry across the world.

Hunterskil Howard (13) - Hunterskil Howard has over 3 decades of experience in IT recruitment in both the permanent and contract arena. (Their latest free Internet training for contractors has proved a major success with the contractor community.) They are looking in particular for project managers with Prince, Link programmers, IBM mainframe operators and systems staff.

Dell Computer Corporation (14) - Dell Computer, headquartered in Texas, is the world's leading direct computer systems company. Dell is also the no. 2 and fastest growing among all major computer systems companies worldwide, with more than 23,000 employees. The company is currently recruiting various IT staff to join its European HQ in Bracknell, Berks.

Silversands Computers (15) - One of the UK's top solutions providers in systems engineering, information technology, software development and project management. Looking particularly for graduate network support staff committed to their certification route, VB developers and messaging engineers with knowledge of CC mail and exchange.

Teacher Training Agency (16) - the aim of the TTA is to promote teaching as a profession. Representatives on the TTA stand will be advising on the necessary qualifications for entry into teaching.



THE INDEPENDENT

مكتبة العصر

NEW FILMS

IF ONLY (15)

Director: Maria Ripoll
Starring: Douglas Henshall
Mix Twelve Monkeys with *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, and you get Maria Ripoll's mainly dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy. Henshall stars as a dumped boyfriend transported back in time by some mysterious Spanish dustmen. As *dopey* as it sounds, but a lot less fun. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road.

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Director: F Gary Gray
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Kevin Spacey, JT Walsh

Two of modern cinema's current favourites go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama about a negotiator forced to kick up a hostage situation of his own. Originally written for Sylvester Stallone, the script has a predilection for bomb-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers, but it doesn't disrupt the wonderfully louché chemistry between them. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End.

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

Director: Stephen Soderbergh
Starring: George Clooney

Elmore Leonard is the source for Stephen Soderbergh's irresistible slice of pulp fiction involving eccentric low-lives, comic cops, intrigues and heists. George Clooney plays the jail-breaking hero, Jack Foley, as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. Suddenly, he seems to be a grown-up film star at a time when most of Hollywood's male heartthrobs don't look old enough to get served in a pub. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero.

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Director: George Cukor
Starring: Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart

Sublime cinema. Cukor's movie - in which Hepburn's imminent wedding is disrupted by the appearance of her former fiancé (Grant) and a scandal-sheet reporter (Stewart) - has a strange, melancholy heart. You never doubt that it'll be the

one who loves her most who'll lead her to the altar, but between the rounds of screwball bickering, Hepburn's unsatisfied heiress sheds real tears. **West End:** Curzon Soho.

THE SLIMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15)

Director: Tamara Jenkins
Starring: Alan Arkin
Tamara Jenkins's fictionalised account of her own teenage years in the outskirts of Beverly Hills has many moments that - after *The Ice Storm* and *Boogie Nights* - seem rather overdone. But Jenkins has a sure instinct for crippling social embarrassment, an impeccable sense of comic timing, and a superb central performer in Alan Arkin - a relic of the decade currently enjoying a well-deserved renaissance. **West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Virgin Fulham Road.

T-REX: BACK TO THE CRETACEOUS (3-D) (U)

Director: Brett Leonard
Starring: Peter Horton
I-Max 3-D dinosaurs are the kind of cute sensation for which cinema was invented, and Leonard's simply-scripted effects showcase lets the reptiles roar in your face, swoop over your head, and pursue you through the trees. But while you see every scale of the tyrannosaurus in living colour, you also get a pin-sharp view of Liz Stauber's zits. **West End:** Pepsi IMAX Cinema.

VICTORY (15)

Director: Mark Peploe
Starring: Willem Dafoe, Irene Jacob, Sam Neill
This Euro-funded Conrad adaptation takes us to a sleazy hotel in the South Seas where well-known character actors (Simon Callow, Bill Paterson, etc) favour extravagant facial hair, and the mid-price stars (Jacob, Neill, Dafoe) do some safe, literary acting. *Archers* fans should take a look, as one of the hairier patrons is played by Edward Kelsey, better known as the voice of Joe Grundy. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House.

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Director: Po Chih Leong
Starring: Jude Law, Elina Lowensohn, Timothy Spall

Jude Law stars as a contemporary vampire in a designer anorak, who has the decency to wear it. He finds his victims before he goes for their jugular. A well-intentioned attempt to give the genre an adult twist is undone by a script that can't tell the difference between sophistication and pretentious rambling. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House.

Matthew Sweet

GENERAL RELEASE

ANGEL SHARKS (MARIE BALE DES ANGES) (15)

Manuel Pradal's handsome debut feature has seductive surface qualities, and its disjointed scenes of adolescent decadence are engaging. But it's empty, pretentious stuff, a sunny triumph of form over content. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre.

ANTZ (PG)

Nerd icon Woody Allen provides the voice of worker-ant "Z", who breaks out of his totalitarian rut when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone). **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero.

BLADE (15)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this unostentatious arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tatty pedigree. **West End:** Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero.

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

All the students at this nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation which awards straight-A grades to room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Dead Man* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a fine quota of drive-in shocks. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Virgin Trocadero.

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's film is the tale of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of indigenous triumph over cruelty. **West End:** Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road.

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation, starring Johnny Depp as Hunter S. Thompson, fills at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a free-wheeling journalistic pigmentation. Incident, caricature and lurid 1970s fashions are substituted for plot and character, and the film soon descends into narcotic lunacy. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Richmond Filmhouse, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket.

THE FOUNTAINHEAD (PG)

Vidor's melodrama stars Gary Cooper as an architect who takes on an evil corporate boss. Its expressionistic camerawork and cod-Freudian symbolism present a bizarre moral message: that we should celebrate the young entrepreneurs as a Nietzschean superman. **West End:** Curzon Soho.

HENRY FOOL (18)

Ral Hartley's fable traces the fate of a piece of erotic verse which springs from the head of a garbage man. The story's subtle twists and turns conjure Hartley's latest into a *tour de force*. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema.

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera focused on a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to

life as a showcase for its high-profile performers plus rising star Laura Fraser. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill.

LES MISERABLES (12)

Bille August turns Victor Hugo's enormous novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as literary adaptations come these days - earnest, deferential and almost humourless. **West End:** Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys.

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This has it all: a proactive heroine, a strong father/daughter relationship, honour, nobility, and, of course, cross-dressing. **West End:** Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero.

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new (romance with a middle-class health visitor). *My Name is Joe* brilliantly evokes a Britain caught below the poverty line. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket.

RONIN (15)

There's an air of knackered resignation to John Frankenheimer's latest movie about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. As dull as ditchwater. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road.

ROUNDERS (15)

The main problem with John Dahl's poker-club thriller is the weak hand dealt by its golden-boy star, Matt Damon, who is comprehensively outplayed by almost everyone else. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket.

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to find a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. The harsh, devastating battle sequences will be branded on your memory. **West End:** Plaza.

THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's new comedy, about a man (played by Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been televised, is very funny, due more to the script than its star's presence. **West End:** Gate Notting Hill, Plaza, Virgin Trocadero.

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Brian Deas (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) is a Bowie-esque idol, his friend and mentor, Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor), is a self-destructive US rocker. Their story is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) 10 years after the hoax assassination of Slade. Director Todd Haynes has created a masterpiece. **West End:** Warner Village West End.

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Insomnia (15)

Remarkable debut by Erik Skjoldbjærg begins with a policeman (Stellan Skarsgård) investigating a sex killing in Norway, but becomes a haunting study in guilt, duplicity and sleeplessness.

Out of Sight (15)

Director Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinema year.

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

The Philadelphia Story (U; Curzon Soho, NFT)

As civilised and graceful as any romantic comedy ever made, it also brings together the most lovable of Hollywood trios - Katharine Hepburn (above), Cary Grant and James Stewart.



ANTHONY QUBIN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love
Theatre Royal, Haymarket
Tom Stoppard's witty, heartbreaking fantasia on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend.

Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eunuchs
Hampstead Theatre
Denis Lawson's superbly amusing cast are in no way eclipsed by screen-heartthrob Ewan McGregor (below), who brings complexity to the central role.

Kafka's Dick
Piccadilly Theatre
Spiriting Kafka in suburban England, Alan Bennett's hilarious romp survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival.

The Seagull

West Yorkshire Playhouse
Jude Kelly's new company, headed by Ian McKellen and Claire Higgins, kicks off with this Chekhov classic in a tempting season that will include *The Tempest*.

Twelfth Night
Crucible Theatre, Sheffield
Perfectly thought-out production by Michael Grandage evokes an Ilyria where storms rage as much within as without.



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois

Serpentine Gallery
Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, reclamation and decay. To 10 Jan



TOM LUBBICK

Turner Prize Tate Gallery
Hugely popular competitive bash in which four artists show their wares. Chris Ofili (above), Tacita Dean, Cathy de Monchaux and Sam Taylor-Wood are this year vying for the top spot. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley Abbott Hall, Kendal

A retrospective on Riley's career from her early Sixties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as *King Cophetua* and *The Beggar Maid*. To 17 Jan

Helen Chadwick Ferens Gallery, Hull
The first overview since this influential UK artist's death mid-career in 1996. Lush light-brown of fruit, flowers and fluids, and the last series, *Unnatural Selection*, showcasing IVF embryos. To 17 Jan

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870-902 0418) • Baker Street
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
Negotiator 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm

ABC PANTONS STREET

(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly
Cruelty 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-267 4222) (from 1pm)
• Piccadilly Circus
The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
If only 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square
The Last Days of Disco 1.30pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
Angel Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm
The Governess 1.45pm, 3.40pm, 5.35pm, 7.30pm
Leviathan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 7.55pm, 10.15pm
Ne Va Plus 4.30pm, 8.55pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Anz 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm
My Name is Joe 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm
The Negotiator 2.20pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) • Barbican
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm
Ronin 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3745) • Sloane Square
My Name is Joe 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) • Clapham
Common Fear 4.45pm, 9.15pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Stanza of Beauty 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.45pm
Victory 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.45pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.45pm, 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) • Green Park
Left Luggage 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)
• Leicester Square
The Bad 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Fire 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 5.50pm
The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4688) • Elephant & Castle
Anz 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm
Blade 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
Out of Sight 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm, 10.55pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) • Leicester Square
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm
Sliding Doors 1.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill
My Name is Joe 4.25pm, 9pm
The Truman Show 2.10pm, 6.40pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) • Hammersmith
Anz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm
Mulan 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Negotiator 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross
Das Schicksal 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly
Cruelty 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm, 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) • Russell Square
Henry Fool 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.15pm
The Knowledge of Healing 1.05pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) • Dalston
Kingdom My Name is Joe 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) • 8th & Brinkley
Anz 2.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
Primary Colors 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9pm
Hamlet 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm
Henry Fool 6.15pm, 8.15pm
Name Is Joe 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm
The Truman Show 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park
Corner/Kingsbridge La Vie Revee des Anges 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) • Camden Town
Anz 1.40pm, 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm
The Negotiator 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm, 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Rounders 3.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm, 10.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870-050007) • Piccadilly
Cruelty 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) • High Street
Kensington Anz 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm
Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm
Rounders 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm
Snakes 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0870-050007) • Leicester Square
Cruelty 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm, 10.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870-050007) • Marble Arch
Anz 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm
The Negotiator 11.45am, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.05pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.55pm
Rounders 3.20pm, 9.10pm
Snakes Eyes 6.20pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0870-050007) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
If Only 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870-050007) • Swiss Cottage
Anz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm
Elizabeth 2.45pm, 8.15pm
If Only 1.10pm, 3.15pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm
Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
Rounders 12.10pm, 3.30pm

ODEON WEST END

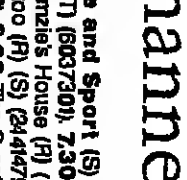
(0870-050007) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
If Only 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) • Piccadilly
Cruelty 2.15pm, 5pm,

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 30 November 1995

Channel 5



(S) (7767189). 3.80 Sooly & Co (S) (T) (29
Asst. Atty.-Gen. Co. (44722)

3.30 **FILM** *Advice to the Lovelorn* (Harry F. U.S.). Plot for TV series that never was, starring Leachman as an egotist suitor beleaguered by a host of women. Will draw water from your eyes. And your law clerk, too. With: OT, #27014720.

6.30 Family Affairs. The Matthews get on Chris' (Neil) double herself when Josh gives her the bird (S) (1) (5883634).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. With K Young (S) (F) (65838354).

7.30 Watery World. The shark, not a man-eating apparently, but a highly sophisticated, intelligent with highly tuned senses (S) (T) (65844483).

8.00 Floyd Uncorked. Keith Floyd's sozzled odyssey reaches Alaska, where he samples a bottle or

8.30 The Antiques Hunter. Stiles dog star David Wilkes to replace the Dean bags and lava lamp Jacobson minor house (S) (T) (6588189).

8.00 [HOL] A Walk in the Clouds. Alfonso Arau (US). Keanu Reeves plays a gallant swain in California country. See *Film of the Day*, below (T) (815023882).

10.80 Dr Fox's Chart Update (S) (48B763).
10.85 **EXIT** Seize the Day (Fader Cook, 1989) U
series confidencé; Robin Williams in a tedious se-

12.45 NFL American Football - Live! San Francisco 49ers vs. New York Giants (S) (1233/4265)
Producer: Don Block (H) (660351), 5:30 100 Per
(S) (7762150), to date.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY STEPHAN M...

FILM OF THE DAY

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS (from *CS*, right) Keanu Reeves can be shockingly bad, but he can also be spine-tinglingly good. In this slow-motion romantic drifter, the first Hollywood film from the director of *Like Water for Chocolate*, he plays a disillusioned WWII veteran who agrees to pose as the husband of a pregnant virginity-beliefs-Alabama character (Nora Wilson) whom he meets on her way back to face the horrors of the Napa Valley. The idea is that he will make her believe a while, leaving the girl's virtue intact in the eyes of her father (Anthony Quinn). Of course, it doesn't quite